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Welcome, Argo readers, to the new layout of the 2010-2011 Boston Latin School Argo! You'll notice a central article, continuing articles on either side, and a set of blurbs regarding interesting articles in this edition of the Argo to make your reading experience that much better. Layout Editors Clinton Nguyen (I) and Dominick Zheng (II) have worked endlessly on this new front page, and we hope you like it as much as we do! Enjoy!



PRESIDENT OBAMA DELIVERING THE STATE OF THE UNION ADDRESS

Obama Calls for Unity and Bipartisanship in Address

By PHIL ALLISON, I
STAFF WRITER

On Tuesday, January 25, President Barack Obama took the podium before both Houses of Congress to fulfill his duty laid out in Article Two, Section Eight of our Constitution: "He shall from time to time give to the Congress information of the State of the Union." After last year's eventful State of the Union address, many were anxious as to whether as much controversy would erupt from the President's second address. From the outset, it was clear that this year's was different. Traditionally, the Congressmen and Senators seat themselves according to party affiliation, but this year, they chose integrated seating, spawning such duos as Senator John McCain (Republican-Arizona) and Senator John Kerry (Democrat-Massachusetts). This new seating plan served very

well to diffuse tension as there was not any discernible block of people applauding or not applauding.

Before anything else, the President took a moment to remember the recent tragedy in Tucson and to wish Representative Gabrielle Giffords well in her continuing recovery.

The President's main message was that of "winning the future," he highlighted several areas where our nation can improve and alluded as to how we might improve. Before he got there, however, he spent a moment taking stock of where we are now. According to the President, our economy is bouncing back and the individual American is prospering.

President Obama addressed the following:

-The Changing Needs of Business-

This is mainly the increasing need for higher education. He said that we, as a nation, need to overhaul our educational system by improving

schools and increasing the number of high school graduates who go on to college. The President recognized the increasingly large gap between good teachers and bad teachers. He said, "We want to reward good teachers and stop making excuses for bad ones." He also praised people like Kathy Proctor, a 55-year-old woman, who went back to school in order to get a better job, but more importantly to set an example for her children that education is paramount.

-Illegal immigration-

It is an issue that he says he wants to resolve once and for all. With the children of illegal aliens going to school every day "with the threat of deportation" and foreign college students going back to their countries to compete against us, he called for reform and a bipartisan solution to illegal immigration that will satisfy both sides of the argument.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3

Skins Needs More Than a Dermatologist

By MAYA ALLEGRO, II
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

"Skins is real life." Um okay, Facebook trailer. The show starts with a young, disheveled girl wandering home in the snow, intoxicated, on a school day. Right on cue, her brother goes through his daily routine of helping her sneak back into the house, while simultaneously driving his father mad. Yep, just another average day in average America with average American teens doing teenager things (besides the fact that it's filmed in Canada). Cultural differences made the original

British *Skins* believable, but set in America, the show is implausible from the start. Not even counting the overdone drug and alcohol use, did you see those outfits? In that snow?! I don't think so.

It's impossible not to compare this version with the original when the script is practically word for word. By having the same situations and characters (except for some arbitrary race and gender changes), this version offers the viewer a chance to reminisce about the original show, a simpler time when the characters were genuine, and the issues were realistic. It is the first non-reality show that MTV

has shown in a while, and the only actual change they made to the script was toning down the especially racy stuff. Because the plot is exactly the same, it becomes painfully obvious what is considered too edgy in America. The "writers" didn't even bother to switch out Britishisms such as 'spliffed up.' The title is a reference to British slang and therefore has no real meaning in the United States. *Skins* walks the fine line of acting as if it's an edgy and risky show while not actually being one. Their drug references are as awkward and unnatural as the peer pressure chapter in health class.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 9

True Grit

"They can be seen wearing their swagger black jump suits on game days ready for battle."

By GABE DIOP, I
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

It has been a tough year so far for the girls' hockey team. Their spirits, however, cannot be broken. The good news is that the turmoil at the beginning of the year has seemed to disappear. They have had many close games including a 2-3 loss to Waltham, so with a different bounce here or there and the result could have been different. No one can argue with the fact that they love to have fun and eat. Whether it is a granola bar after practice or a clementine before a game, there is always enough food to go around. They are a close-knit family, often having team dinners with enough food to feed a football team. They can be seen wearing their swagger black jump suits on game days ready for battle. Look out for their new stylish hats and mittens, which by the way, are for sale. Although they may not be the best team in the Dual County League, they do have some of the best apparel the DCL has ever seen.

On the ice, there are many skilled players. Sophomore sensation Mallory O'Brien has stepped up this season, offering lots of offensive production. She is not one to brag to the media; rather, she lets her production speak for itself. Julia Caldwell (II), who is a nightmare for defensemen, can be seen dangling by her opponents. This of course fits well, considering she is from Charlestown. Marykate Lampron (II), has been known to light the lamp. She has definitely taken notes on the celebrations of the ultimate sniper Conal Lynch (II), as she swipes the ice after some of her goals. She is currently leading the team in points, but the season is not over, so there's no need to get the Most Valuable Player chants going just yet. Sarah Bowers (I) leaves the dangles at home and simply relies on her speed to smoke the defenders and let it be known that she has scored. These offensive skills really showed in their 4-2 win over Wayland-Weston.

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NEWS

Egypt on Edge

By ALEC MACNEIL, III
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

The sudden uprisings in the Middle East began in the town of Sidi Bouzid on January 14 in Tunisia, with what is now called the Jasmine Revolution; a college-educated yet impoverished, street-vendor lit himself on fire in order to speak out against the harsh poverty and burned to death. Upon seeing this extreme demonstration, many Tunisians were spurred to rectify their way of life, and they began to call upon each other to protest via Facebook and Twitter.

Eventually, the demonstrations against President Zine el- Abidine Ben Ali, who had led the country for the past 23 years, caused him to flee from the country when pacifying the people proved to be an effort in futility; he is followed by a warrant for his arrest. Even after this victory, Tunisians have pushed further for a total reform of their government, and were ultimately successful on January 27 when Prime Minister Mohammed Ghannouchi removed three ministers from Ben Ali's party from their posts and replaced them with members of an independent party. As demonstrations, calling even for the removal of Prime Minister Ghannouchi, rage in the streets of the capital Tunis, it appears that the overthrow of the government will be successful. This success has inspired other Middle Eastern countries to rebel against their oppressive leaders. Most notably following suit, however, is Egypt. Beginning on January 25, citizens in Cairo began small demonstrations, calling for the end of authoritarian Hosni Mubarak's 30-year rule over Egypt. Through word of mouth and social networking sites such as Facebook the size and strength of the protests began

to erupt exponentially. There were also numerous accounts of self-immolation, which once again displayed the influence of the recent Jasmine Revolution in Egypt to rise against its president. While it did play a significant part in fueling this revolt, Egyptians had their own motives as well.



EGYPTIAN PROTESTERS CLASH WITH RIOT POLICE

Many demonstrators in Cairo claim that Mubarak had led his people to this outrage by monopolizing political life in the country, going so far as to allow his elite police force, well-known for using torture and other ruthless tactics, to make arrests without charge. Most enraging, however, was Mubarak's total disinterest in governing, as many citizens of Cairo claimed that he neglected even his most basic responsibilities. Mubarak is reported to have not foreseen an uprising of such an abrupt and overwhelming size. In order to try to take control of the situation, he has ordered his police force to use rubber bullets and tear gas to disperse crowds. The president is certain that this as well as many of his country's other is-

sues, is the fault the Muslim Brotherhood, against which he created his police force. The Brotherhood, however, has made official statements to deny any connection or participation in the demonstrations.

What is most interesting about the protests in Cairo, aside from the major-

ity of the demonstrators being college-educated and only in their early 20s, is that upwards of 90,000 people are completely leaderless. What has been one the largest full-scale protests in recent memory was completely self-organized. Only recently on January 27 has Nobel Prize winning Dr. Mohammed El-Baradei, a pro-Egyptian democracy advocate and leading opponent of Mubarak, returned to Cairo in attempts to rally the protesters together to form a major demonstration, and even possibly the overthrowing of Mubarak himself, on Friday, January 28. In addition, the Muslim Brotherhood has announced that it will be participating on Friday as well, despite being outlawed by Mubarak.

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NEWS

Q&A With Manny

By **CARLOS ROJAS, II**
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

If you have walked into the Boston Latin School lately (which you probably have), you may have noticed that Manny, our one and only security officer and bona fide guardian angel, has been gone for quite a while. The good news is—he’s back! He had the chance to take a break from his officer duties and sit down with me to discuss his leave of absence and the progress he has made. The conversation was lively and full of the “Mannerisms” we have grown to love.

Q: It’s great to see you back Manny! How are you doing?
A: I’m doing much better, sir... much better. [to another student passing by] hey,

OBAMA CALLS FOR UNITY AND BIPARTISANSHIP IN ADDRESS
Continued from page 1

-Aid for small businesses-

The President called upon American small businesses to stand their ground, and he pledged the government’s help; he called out the bureaucracy and said that he wants to go through the regulations and eliminate any that doesn’t make sense. As part of his business plan, President Obama wants to double American exports by 2014, creating thousands of jobs.

-Green initiatives for the future-

With the Beyond Petroleum (BP) Oil Spill still fresh in our minds, the

young lady! How are you doing?
Q: So what happened exactly? There’s so much going around no one really knows the truth.
A: Well, what happened was I had an aneurysm... near my heart. The doctors went in to repair it and they did but it caused my left leg to become paralyzed. So they went in and took a vein from the bottom of my leg [lifts his pant leg displaying the stitches and scars] and ran it to the top of my leg and made it into an artery.
Q: No we do! I’m sorry to hear that. How do you feel about the amount of support you’ve been getting from the BLS community?
A: Oh my goodness... I have to thank everyone for the support. It was absolutely wonderful. It would be very hard

President expressed his wish for the next 25 years: 80 percent of our energy should be “clean,” that is, utilizing wind power, solar power, clean coal, natural gas and nuclear energy. To do this, we need to follow the example of the Allen brothers, who own a roofing company that is now manufacturing solar shingles.

-Health care-

President Obama then remarked that he had “...heard rumors that a few of you still have concerns about our new health care law...” He acknowledged that there are definite things to be fixed and said that instead of “re-fighting the last two years,” he wants the Congress



THE MAN(NY) HIMSELF

to work together to fix what has to be fixed.

-Taxes-

The President asked Congress to simplify individual tax codes – the nightmarish mountains of paperwork that every American goes through every year.

-The budget-

President Obama then said that we need to win a future free from a mountain of debt. To do this, he proposed a Domestic Budget Freeze for the next five years. As part of the government’s spending freeze and budget cutting, the President called upon a change in the bureaucracy: 12 departments dealing with exports. In what he calls the biggest government

to say thanks to everyone but I think I can do it through Argo.
Q: You certainly can! Go ahead, who would you like to thank?
A: I would like to thank the students of Boston Latin School, the staff, a special shout out to Ms. Mooney-Teta, and the guidance counselors! They have been great. Their support helped me get better, I have to say. I could not have done it without them.
Q: Will you be getting better? Will we see the same old Manny?
A: Yes, yes of course you will... I’ll get better. Thanks for taking the time to talk to me, I really appreciate it. Thanks to everyone!
Q: Thanks Manny. It was great talking to you.
A: Alrighty, great!

reform since black-and-white television sets, he seeks to streamline it.

-War on terror-

Finally, reminiscent of former President George Bush’s speeches after 9/11, President Obama said the following to our enemies in the Global War on Terror: “We will not relent, we will not waver and we will defeat you.”

Overall, President Obama called on the nation to unify, to reach across the aisle and to believe in America. Acknowledging the United States as the greatest country on earth, the President said that the state of our union is strong, will remain so and gain more strength in the future.

Tucson Tragedy Aftermath

By **WINNIE ZHANG, II**
STAFF WRITER

On the morning of January 8, about two dozen residents of Tucson, Arizona gathered outside a supermarket to meet with their local congresswoman, Representative Gabrielle Giffords, as she held a meeting called, “Congress on Your Corner.” What seemed like a quiet and friendly event would soon transpire into tragedy in Tucson and throughout the nation. Jared Lee Loughner, a 22-year-old, opened fire on the crowd around 10:10

A.M., wounding 19 and killing six. Among those injured were Representative Giffords, who received a bullet wound to the head, Gabriel Zimmerman, a member of Giffords’ staff, and Judge John M. Roll from the federal courthouse in Tucson.

As Loughner awaits trial, facing the possibility of the death penalty, politicians and political commentators across the country have raised concern over the intensity of the vitriol in the country’s political culture. There is, however, no clear indication whether Loughner’s motives were political, as he

is refusing to cooperate with authorities. Those close to Loughner say that he was unaffected by partisan rhetoric. A high school friend stated, “He did not watch TV, he disliked the news, he didn’t listen to political radio, he didn’t take sides, he wasn’t on the left, he wasn’t on the right.”

Many Democrats though, are blaming Sarah Palin and the Republican Party for promoting threatening language and symbols. Among the most notable of the examples was Palin’s map of “targeted” congressional districts in the 2010 midterm elections, depicting

a gun’s crosshairs over these districts. One of these targets was Representative Giffords’ district. Following the shooting, Palin was heavily criticized and even blamed as an indirect cause of the shootings in Tucson. However, politicians from both parties have spoken out against placing blame on the other party as it only serves to reinforce the heated political storm.

Prior to the shooting, Representative Giffords, whose Washington office was vandalized after she had voted in support of the new healthcare law, had raised concern over the heated rhetoric. In an email sent to a colleague on the eve of the shooting, Giffords said that Congress needs, “to figure out how to tone [their] rhetoric and partisanship down.” In the wake of the shooting, Washington has focused on conciliating the heated and oftentimes threatening political climate in the United States. Politicians from both sides of the aisle have expressed a need to regain a sense of respect in political discourse. Democratic Representative Debbie Wasserman Schultz of Florida said, “It’s our responsibility to make sure that we set the right example and set a tone of civility.”

Cable news and talk radio hosts, especially right-wing pundits, have also been reprimanded for inciting violence and contributing to a toxic political atmosphere in America.

Most Americans nevertheless, feel that the political rhetoric and the Tucson shooting are unrelated and that the gunman was a disturbed individual who acted on his own. While Loughner’s motives are unclear, commentators and politicians alike are aware of the need to end the toxic political climate in America to prevent another tragedy like Tucson.



PALIN AND GIFFORDS STRUGGLE TO KEEP THE PEACE IN A HEATED POLITICAL CLIMATE

NEWS

President of China Visits United States

By **KEVIN BAPTISTA, I**
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

On January 21, 2011, Chinese President Hu Jintao visited an exhibition of companies located in the Midwest. The exhibition, which consisted primarily of companies funded by China, was located in Woodridge, Chicago. President Hu appealed to the Chinese-funded companies to adamantly promote stronger trade collaboration between the United States and China. Hu insisted that the success of the US Midwest companies was exemplary of how mutually beneficial strong ties between the two superpowers could be.

President Hu received President Obama in November of 2009 when they discussed strengthening ties and abandoning distrust. They touched upon the major global issues facing the world such as economic recovery, climate change and the elusive world peace. Hu also took the opportunity to clearly express his resentment towards the view that other nations have of China as having a

long way to go before modernization. The two then decided that it would be best for both countries to work cooperatively against common tribulations and move forward relations. They issued a joint statement promising a “positive, cooperative and comprehensive relationship in the 21st century.”

The Chinese-funded companies present at the exhibition reflect this new found affiliation. They have assisted the economy of the Midwest, while at the same time providing revenue for the Chinese government. China has become a powerful ally in many pressing international issues that the US is involved in, including both Iran and North Korea. China has supported US sanctions against North Korea in the past and backed tough statements made by the International Atomic Energy Agency on Iran. US government officials and their Chinese counterparts have started keeping in contact more frequently. China even bought one trillion dollars worth of US debt in 2009. Although many aspects of

US-China relations have been ameliorated during the Obama Administration, the two countries are still facing their fair share of conflicts.

The White House participated in a transaction with the Taiwan last year that put strains on the US-China relationship. This transaction provided several billion dollars worth of Black Hawk helicopters and anti-missile batteries to Taiwan in the first half of last year. President Hu and the Chinese people, who claim Taiwan as a territory, had obvious negative sentiments towards such a large weapons deal. China threatened to place embargoes on US companies selling equipment to Taiwan, but the White House claimed that the weapons only served to secure Taiwan’s stability. Things worsened when Secretary of State Hillary Clinton called China to investigate hacked Google emails of human rights activists. Clinton continues to criticize the human rights record of the Chinese government with mentions of the persecution of Charter 08, a pro-democracy group, and the detain-

ment of Liu Xiaobo, a Nobel Peace Prize winner and political activist.

Hu’s visit provides new hope of the betterment of the connection between China and the United States. Both the White House and Beijing admit that the success of the other is vital to their own success and that the promise to move forward still stands. However, in his State of the Union address, Obama mentioned the ever-growing problem of large corporations off shoring jobs to countries such as China. The balance that the two superpowers must find in order to be truly mutually – and equally beneficial – is difficult to locate. In the address, Obama also did make clear that the United States of America, not China, still experiences the strongest economy in the world.

President Hu completed his four day visit to the United States and returned to China shortly after the exhibition. The vacillating relationship between the two seems like it will persist for some time, but it cannot be denied that some strides are being made.

Baby Doc Returns to Charges in Haiti

By **LUCY BURKE, II**
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

January 12 was the anniversary of the earthquake in Haiti, which left over 316,000 people dead and a million homeless and uprooted Haiti into the chaos it is in right now. Many more remain in danger from diseases that are battering the makeshift camps. As if Haitians needed anything else stirring up their country at the moment, an exiled dictator decided to make a surprise visit back to his home country.

On January 16 Jean-Claude Duvalier flew into the Toussaint Louverture International Airport in Port-au-Prince after 25 years of exile in France. He was met by cheering crowds, a surprising greeting considering that when he fled Haiti in 1986, his car was shot at on route to the airport. So the question of why Duvalier, a violent dictator, would return to politically and socially unstable Haiti arose immediately.

The Duvalier family has a long and unpleasant history as leaders in Haiti. From 1957 to 1971 Haiti was under the oppressive rule of François “Papa Doc” Duvalier. After serving as doctor for the poor

in Port-au-Prince he became the Director of Public Health under the president Dumarsais Estimé, who was then overthrown in a coup d’état. After a series of interim governments, François Duvalier won the presidency in 1957. He made himself President for Life and brutally controlled Haiti using the Tonton Macoutes, a paramilitary force who were given leave to do virtually anything and everything to inspire fear in the public. They were nicknamed that by Haitians after the folktale of a boogeyman that steals children in the night and eats them. Random executions in that era were common, and it is estimated they killed as many as 30,000 people. In 1971 Duvalier died and his 19 year old son Jean-Claude “Baby Doc” succeeded him. Jean-Claude was a young playboy, unprepared for politics and power. His regime proved as ruthless as his father’s and in 1986 he fled to France when he feared for his life. He lived in France for 25 years without actually being granted asylum, as

the French government turned a blind eye. Rumors of the cause range from lupus to pancreatic cancer, but it is certain that Duvalier’s health is failing and that most of his former wealth has been lost.



DUVALIER'S RETURN WAS MET WITH MIXED REACTIONS

His return raised rumors that Duvalier would attempt to seize the power he lost a quarter century ago, especially since the November election is still being contested. The reactions to his return among the people were mixed, though. More than half of Haiti’s populations are too young to remember the Duvalier era,

and those people seem to remember him more fondly than their parents do. At a time when Haiti is struggling to rebuild and cholera has killed thousands, even the horrible past can appear more attractive than the present. Duvalier claimed that he returned to his home country “for the reconstruction of Haiti”, but there is presumably more behind it. Whatever the reason, it likely involves money: Duvalier embezzled millions from the Haitian government and from relief funds. He lived luxuriously in France until his divorce lost him much of his wealth. He now has \$6 million in Swiss bank accounts, which was frozen after the Haitian government contended that it had criminal origins. If Duvalier could have successfully visited Haiti without getting formally accused of those crimes the bank might have allowed him the money.

Baby Doc had no such luck however. Two days after landing in Port-au-Prince Duvalier was taken from his hotel and charged with corruption and embezzlement. Now, after what he said would be a trip of only a few days, he remains in his hotel room. He is required to remain in Haiti and is awaiting a recall by the judge.

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NEWS

Colorado Immigration Bill

By **PAUL MAIULLARI, I**
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Last April, Arizona passed the toughest illegal immigration legislation in United States history. This law, Arizona House Bill 1070, required law enforcement officials to determine the legal status of any residents suspected of being in the country illegally. Following this enactment, controversy sparked among those who supported and detracted the law. While some called this law invasive, others found it appropriate, considering that Arizona has the second-highest illegal immigrant population among all 50 states. Now, a similar controversy is developing in fellow “Four Corner” state, Colorado.

Home to the fifth-highest illegal immigrant population in the nation, Colorado has been in the process of thwarting this distinction since 2005, when it passed a law similar to 1070, but not as extreme. Under this regulation, suspects were only scanned

after being arrested for a preliminary charge. Colorado’s law, however, had yet to be as effective as 1070 due to a lack of enforcement throughout the state. In recognition of this failure (of an outdated law), the state was motivated to establish a new legislation.

In mid-January, Colorado Senator Kent Lambert introduced Senate Bill 54, a law similar to 1070, resembling the state’s early attempts at legislation. This new bill allowed, but did not require, local law enforcement officers to arrest anyone they suspected of illegal immigration. Those in opposition to Arizona’s ruling were pleased by the less extreme Bill 54. This law, however, was not meant to be a long-term contentment.

A week after launching Bill 54, the House introduced a new bill with more matters in common with 1070 than Colorado’s earlier attempts. House Bill 1107 requires that law enforcement officers “make a reasonable attempt to determine the immigration status” of anyone in suspi-

cion. Similar to 1070, 1107 would also make it a crime to intentionally fail to carry or complete an alien registration document.

Despite being a “new” law, some groups are already calling House Bill 1107 a carbon copy of House Bill 1070. Its list of provisions, including a request to make it a crime for illegal immigrants to apply for employment, is in many ways similar to that of 1107. With their various connections, many consider 1107 to be an echo of 1070, a law that has reignited the immigration debate, inspired similar concerns nationwide, impacted political campaigns and raised US tensions with Mexico.

The recognition of these outcomes has Americans wondering how their country’s efforts to counter illegal immigration will affect other elements of politics. House Bill 1107 is a victory for Colorado Republicans, many of whom have pushed for an increase in board security and immigration reform. Many Democrats, on the other hand, are pointing to the economy,

saying that this law was not written to fight “illegals” but to pay off a political debt.

Among other concerns for illegal immigrants is employment. Many residents found to be here illegally often hold down jobs. In a struggling economy like our own, many are also supportive of this bill because it would open more job opportunities for America’s legal citizens. Clearing up the job positions occupied by illegal citizens would benefit those who are rightfully American.

Others, however, disagree and feel it is best to work on a better policy. Instead of hounding the employment system, many Americans would rather see more work on a reliable policy. These people also compare these illegal immigrants to several groups of people who have come to America throughout history in search of a better life. The United States of America has always been known for its clear and countless opportunities. The issue of illegal immigration, however, is one that the country continually deals with.

All About Health

By **ALLIE KENNELLY, IV**
& **NHU LE, III**
CONTRIBUTING WRITER & STAFF WRITER

In the past few decades, the rate of obesity has risen to 30 percent of America’s population, and with it has risen the concern for the health of our youth. Michelle Obama launched the “Let’s Move” initiative, promoting healthy food choices for children. Starting last year, the state mandated records of students’ Body Mass Index (BMI) in the fourth, fifth, sixth and tenth grade to be sent to their parents. This health-conscious trend has now swept through the halls of Boston Latin School.

To ask the school itself to control the eating habits of its students is impossible. Because of the current budget limitations, the school partially depends on the profits from the snack shop and vending machines for funding. Even if both the snack shop and vending machines sell only the healthiest of snacks, administrators have

no control over what students will bring from home to school for lunch. Yet this fact does not mean that no action can be taken. The school can still teach students to opt for healthier options by raising their awareness. Indeed, starting this year, there has been a massive push within the school to do just that. Surprisingly, the effort has come from both students and school officials.

This year, BLS students started the Nutrition Club and have been meeting regularly to discuss smart food choices. Its members are even holding a fruit-kebab-making event for Valentine’s Day as a way of making healthy snacks fun and appealing. In addition, Chef Jessica Krane has paired with BLS as a part of the First Lady’s “Chef’s Move to Schools” initiative. She will be running various educational mini-workshops on food and health in conjunction with the Boston Public Schools’ “Farm to School” and YouthCAN. The first workshop is scheduled for early

February and will focus primarily on snack options. Healthy food is also the theme of YouthCAN this year. In order to promote the link between sustainable living and healthy food options, its members held the Sustainable Food Fair this autumn as their fall kick-off event. Future planned events like their 2011 Climate Change & Food Summit on May 21 at MIT, to which they’ve invited the First Lady, will continue to raise students’ health-consciousness.

In order for the student body to change its eating habits, however, there needs to be healthier options available within the school. For many years the school has required all chips sold to be baked or low-fat, but has drawn back from making larger changes to its offered lunches because of budget limitations. Taking these necessary steps, however, is not impossible. BLS is now a part of the BPS “Farm to School” initiative. Every Thursday, fresh produce from local farms is being served in the cafeteria. Chef Jes-

sica Krane is working with the cafeteria staff and students to improve the school’s lunches and plans to put out a useful cookbook of healthy meals for students. Other enhanced healthy lunch options in school have been made possible by the students themselves. Just this fall, students installed a student-led vegetable garden, easily viewed from the front of the school. The first harvest has already been served to the student body! BLS has even won a salad bar, thanks to the effort of BLS students who applied for the Great American Salad Bar Competition. The student body is anxiously awaiting!

Students have already reaped the benefits of this push for a more health-conscious school, and with enough effort and motivation, they can only increase with time. Although the future of America’s health is uncertain, we can count on one thing: BLS students will not be part of today’s most significant issues—youth ignorance of health and food.

New BLS Workshop Series for Students

Wednesday Feb 9th **Get out of study**
Day 3 R3 & R4 **Get a snack**
 Get a clue!

BLS students are invited to enjoy snacks and a miniworkshop, the first in a series, in the cafeteria.

Topic: Food and Marketing
How advertising targets growth
Sign up in 025!

First 50 students will be given passes for their study the next day.

Brought to you by BLS YouthCAN, BPS Farm to School, and Chef Jessica Krane

FRUIT & VEGETABLE POSTER CONTEST

- Sponsored by Farm to School Initiative Targeting -

Deadline *March 31st*
Prize *Details to follow*
Pick up a flyer in 025

The food and beverage industry spends over **\$1.6 billion** targeting kids every year.

Here's your chance to combat that!



Spotlight
Olive Tang



By MICHAEL SAHAGIAN, I
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

When I first met Olive Tang in the 8th grade, I remember thinking to myself, “Oh, look, here comes yet another typical Asian math genius with no life.” How little did I know then that the person I automatically stereotyped would eventually become my best friend in this place that we’ve called home for the past 5 (almost 6) years. Olive is just one of those people that everyone just seems to know by name, whether it be from one of her extracurricular activities or just the fame of her mathematical abilities.

Olive has been in my math class for the past 5 years. Today, we are part of a little family known as ‘AP Calc BC,’ what used to be called ‘high honors.’ In that class, as well as every other class that she takes, Olive leads the discussion forward, always proposing new ideas and opposing anyone who she does not agree with, including the famous Mr. Bilodeau. Olive Tang has been a fireball in the classroom.

In addition to her stellar class performance, Olive leads a very active extracurricular and social life – contrary to my first impression when I met her 5 years go. She is the captain the Math Team, the Science Team, and the Mock Trial Team. No matter which one you are talking to her about, she’s always passionate about what she does, and she’s not afraid to show it. Last year, Olive placed directly from the Boston City Science fair to the Intel International Science Fair to represent the state of Massachusetts, an honor that only few can talk proudly about.

Although she may seem like a Math and Science girl on the outside, Olive has a flare for things like law and history. She’s been the captain of the Mock Trial team for two years now. Whenever she’s preparing for a big meet, Olive lives, breathes, and sleeps her casebook, carrying it around with her everywhere she goes.

In 8th grade, we worked together along with Xinlan Li on a Seevak project on Al Gore. Although we were only 8th graders and it seemed like a daunting task, Olive helped us to persevere, completing a project that, despite many setbacks and time constraints, helped us win an honorable mention award, a feat that very few 8th grade teams, if any, have managed to attain.

But that’s the ‘paper’ version of Olive Tang, the version that was sent off to MIT – to which she has already been accepted – and Harvard, her two choices for college. The Olive that I’ve grown to love over the past 5 years is more than just a perfect student. She is a perfect friend. Olive is there for anyone in need, not afraid to give someone a hug when they need one, or just sit and listen if you need someone to talk to. If have the chance to be graced by a friendship with Olive Tang like I have, take it. You won’t regret it.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY
3D: What’s Behind the Big Screen

By LINDA DENG, I
STAFF WRITER

Movies have come a long way from the old black and white silent films. Now there are sounds, colors and special effects that can make actors look like giant blue alien creatures from the planet Pandora. One of the more recent trends in cinematic technology is three dimensional (3D) viewing, also known as stereoscopic film. In the past year, almost every action movie and animated film has been released in 3D and has accelerated the decrease of money in one’s bank account.

Believe it or not, the first 3D film was created in the ‘20s, back when black and white silent films were still popular. The technology was not widely used until recently because the overall cost for the devices was too high. The initial concept of 3D images was created even earlier at the beginning of the 19th century by Sir Charles Wheatstone. He developed a small mirrored device called a stereoscope that created the three dimensional illusion of a two dimensional image. Now, stereoscopy refers to any technique that creates the illusion of depth.

There are two main stereoscopic methods currently used in movie theaters. The first is the anaglyphic method in which audience members wear glasses with different colored filters in each lens. Every image projected on the movie screen is made up of two different filtered color images. The colored lenses create an offset image in each eye that causes the illusion of depth when analyzed by the brain. The anaglyphic technique has also recently been used for 3D viewing on the Internet and certain television programs. For example, last year’s televised Grammy Awards included a Michael Jackson tribute in 3D using the anaglyphic

technique. This technique enabled both television viewers at home and audience members to experience the greatness of Michael Jackson in 3D (if viewers at home owned the red-blue glasses).

The other technique is called polarization. Like the anaglyphic method, the polarization technique uses glasses with different filtered lenses to create the illusion of depth. Instead of using color filters, however, the glasses use polarizing filters. Polarizing filters block light with a certain

polarization. The polarization of light is the general orientation in which the light wave travels. Similar to the anaglyphic technique, each image displayed in the film is made up of two different images. Each image is projected through a different polarized filter so that each eye can only view the image with the same polarized filter.

The two different images viewed by each eye create the illusion of depth. Currently, most cinemas use this method. This is why stolen 3D glasses from the movie theater will not allow you to watch 3D displays on the internet or TV since they use different techniques. Also, do not be surprised if stolen 3D glasses from one theater does not work at another. For the movie to appear in 3D, both the glasses and the projector need to have the same two polarizing filters.



BACK IN THE DAY...

There are many rumors about how 3D glasses can harm an individual, which range from blindness to seizures. One of the most common rumors is that 3D glasses worn outside of the dark movie theater can damage your eyes. This rumor, however, is false; polarized technology is used in some sunglasses to block the glare from reflective surfaces, so the polarized lenses in the 3D glasses do not harm your eyesight. 3D glasses, however, are not made to use outdoors so they are useless as sunglasses. As always, too much of a good thing can be a bad thing. Rumors of nausea and dizziness after watching a 3D movie are true, but these problems can be solved easily by reducing the amount of time you watch 3D footage. Besides the ridiculous price, 3D movies are a fun way to experience film. Have fun watching your next 3D movie!

Is Wikileaks Cyberterrorism?

By JACOB ZHANG, III
STAFF WRITER

Wikileaks grabbed international attention once again after Rudolf Elmer, a former Swiss bank employee, handed over two Compact Disks of sensitive banking information to Wikileaks founder Julian Assange during a press conference. Wikileaks, a website devoted to exposing secret government and corporate documents to the public, recently came under fire after exposing thousands of reports related to the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. With the First Amendment’s freedom of speech and the hordes of people, supporting Wikileaks, it is easy to see why the site has lasted this far in its crusade. If the site, however, aims to subvert governments and to increase distrust between people and their administrative institutions, isn’t Wikileaks’ mission just another act of cyberterrorism?

Fear of cyberterrorism is nothing new. Since the Y2K incident in 2000, the year in which all outdated computers were purported to explode or something of the like, people have been forever wary of computers and the internet. This is true especially in modern times. When governments keep digital records, factories are largely automated and robot drones patrol the skies above Afghanistan, the internet seems to be a likely tool for future terrorist attacks. The Pentagon receives dozens of daily cyber attacks, most of which are committed by Chinese hackers. Wikileaks is no different. The group acquires sensitive information just as hackers do, and are believed to provide the information to governments and terrorists. The same

Chinese hackers also helped establish Wikileaks, with similar goals in mind. Wikileaks fits every description and definition of cyberterrorism, so why has it been able to survive until now?

There are several differences that separate Wikileaks from full-fledged terrorism. It is surprisingly democratic, since it previously allowed users to upload documents at their leisure before it succumbed to its own share of cyber attacks. It also freely distributes its documents online, unlike governments who never accept responsibility for hacking, much less make the information available on the internet. In an increasingly democratic world and information tools like Wikipedia, from which Wikileaks derives its name, it makes sense that Wikileaks should ride the wave of success. By allowing anonymous users to post confidential documents, Wikileaks can do much more damage than previously possible by individual governments. Since the information is distributed anonymously, no single nation can be held responsible or punished. By making it available on the internet, any terrorist can access the documents from anywhere so that no single nation or individual can be blamed for collaborating with like-minded terrorists. Ironically, it is the principle behind freedom and democracy that threatens our very freedoms and our democratic world.

Principle aside, one can judge the intent of Wikileaks based purely on its content. Out of the innumerable documents, not one says anything good about anyone. Wikileaks is essentially that one person feels wronged by the world and talks trash about everyone around him. Why should

one believe anything he says? Most of these documents, if not all, are unverified and come from questionable sources. The sources that one can confirm are promptly arrested, such as the banker Rudolf Elmer, who was arrested in Sweden. The videos they release, such as the one of a chopper gunner accidentally killing a group of journalists, are grainy and dim. Without the editor’s subtitles (which are obviously biased) it is impossible to see any immediate wrongdoing in the video. The fact that Wikileaks uploads only negative material dismisses the site as a reliable news source. History is quick to point out that there have been many successful Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) missions during the Cold War that have saved lives, but are regrettably kept secret. As any newspaper knows, bad news sells, and it is this formula that has kept Wikileaks in the spotlight.

Wikileaks might have a false fantasy that what they are doing is for the benefit of mankind. How else can the vigilante-like anonymity and the effort to expose governments be explained? Like Julian Assange and his fellow conspirators, all terrorists have the notion that they are achieving a greater good whether it is independence, truth, or vengeance. Is subversion and secrecy really a better way to improve this world than trust and leadership? How can they be benefiting mankind by tearing down the foundations of civilization we have worked so hard to build? It may be excusable if they had good intentions, but the malicious content they distribute proves otherwise. We can only hope that they do not cause any more damage before they are stopped.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Gaming’s Next Dimension

By **KERRY HU, I**
ASSISTANT SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY EDITOR

In a world with 3D technology around almost every corner, little can be turned into something that pops out at you. We have all seen movies and pictures come alive, but now there is even portable 3D gaming.

Nintendo recently announced its latest generation game console: the 3DS. Descending from the successful DS series, the 3DS will support a higher image resolution, which means better screen textures and details. Of course, these improvements are always a given for any new product on the market. What really sets the Nintendo 3DS apart are its 3D capabilities.

Surprisingly, there will be no need for an extra pair of glasses to use the 3D features. As simple as it sounds, one can just turn on the device, and start playing games in 3D. But how exactly does it work?

Let us start by examining a 3D theater setting. In this case, two different



The core of the 3DS functionality involves the use of a similar form of visual distortion called the parallax barrier. Think of it as a transparent cover for the LCD screen. It acts as a filter, which allows each eye to see a different set of pixels, creating an effect similar to ho-

images are projected onto the screen. The red and blue glasses each block a different layer of the movie, and direct varying patterns of light to each eye, to create a perception of depth. The brain then combines these views and forms a kind of 3D image known as an analoglyph.

lographic trading cards.

Why then, might you ask, is it that the theaters don’t use the parallax barrier method and avoid the hassle of having to wear glasses? That is because it only works when the viewer is close to the screen, and only at a specific angle, ideal

for technology such as the 3DS and not so much for the cinema.

Of course, the Nintendo 3DS can also be used in 2D. The intensity of the 3D effect can be changed using an adjustable slider on the side, and can even be turned off completely. To accompany the 3D screen, twin cameras are included to capture 3D photos. A motion and gyro sensor responds to the motion of the system, instantly reacting to shakes and tilts, and there is also a new analog control on the bottom left part of the 3DS, which according to a Nintendo software designer, allows games like Super Mario Kart to be played more comfortably.

After reviewing some of the specifications for Nintendo’s next in-line item, there’s no doubt that the Nintendo 3DS is unique and takes entertainment to another level. The Nintendo Company and consumers alike are expecting a large sell out. Even though the system is priced at \$250, many will still plan to purchase the 3DS. Question is, will you?

Brands Are for Companies, Not Kids

By **ALEX YUAN, III**
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

In the town of Mount Vernon, Ohio, a teacher was fired after two and a half years of appeals and lawsuits and over \$900,000 in legal fees. In April of 2008, John Freshwater, an eighth grade science teacher at the local middle school, was accused of teaching religious beliefs in a science classroom and causing second-degree burns in the shape of a cross onto the arms of several students in his class with high-voltage static electricity from a Tesla coil. There have also been reports of Freshwater quoting that “science is wrong because the Bible states that homosexuality is a sin and so anyone who is gay chooses to be gay and is therefore a sinner,” and that “Catholics are not Christians.” Later that year, the family of a student, who was branded by Freshwater, filed a suit against him and the school district; consequently, the school board began the process of firing Freshwater. However, according to an Ohio law, prior to being fired, a teacher can make an appeal and have a hearing before a referee, who then makes a recommendation to the school board. This took around two years in the case of Freshwater. The report made by the referee earlier this month stated that while he was a good teacher, he constantly attempted to teach the views of Christian doctrine to his science class and “used his classroom as a means of sowing the seeds of doubt and confusion in the minds of impressionable students as they searched for meaning in the subject of science.” Thus, he recommended that Freshwater be fired. This week, the school board voted 4-1 to terminate Freshwater’s con-

tract. In the meantime, Freshwater also sued the Mount Vernon Board of Education for \$1 million on the grounds of defamation and discrimination against his religion, but he later dropped the lawsuit.

For the school district, however, most of the fallout comes from the price tag for firing Freshwater. The town’s 15,000 inhabitants had to pay \$902,765 in taxes, which included up to \$813,628 in legal fees paid by the school district. Though many teacher appeals run into the hundreds of thousands of dollars, this case is an exception. The school district has an annual budget of only \$32 million. Now, Freshwater may even appeal the school board’s firing a second time, probably leading to more lawsuits. Schools could be tempted to keep a bad teacher, as firing him or her would be too financially costly.

Even though Freshwater was found to be at fault, part of the blame can be placed on the school system. As early as 2006 Freshwater was told to stop teaching creationism, yet he did not. Another teacher also said that Freshwater told students to refer to the Bible for scientific research. It was only after the branding



FRESHWATER SUED FOR CONTROVERSIAL “TEACHING METHODS”

incident got out that the school began to respond. The town of Mount Vernon became bitterly divided over whether Freshwater should be fired or not. Many criticized the parents of the child who were branded for speaking up. Even though there was criticism for firing Freshwater, many believe it was the right thing to do. Multiple previous Supreme Court rulings have estab-

lished that teaching religion or religious beliefs such as creationism in a public school is unconstitutional. The mother of a branded student spoke up. “We are Christians,” she stated, “who practice our faith where it belongs, at church and in our home and most importantly, outside the public classroom, where the law requires a separation of church and state.”

Sci & Tech Tidbits

>>During a press conference held on January 27, Sony announced its newest technology in gaming: the PSP2, codenamed NGP—Next Generation Portable. The NGP features a quad-core processor, a quad-core graphics card, 3G internet access, Wi-Fi, a global positioning system (GPS), a touchpad and an accelerometer. Sony claims that it is, “as powerful as the PS3.” No release date was mentioned.

>>Apple recently announced an

iPhone 4 for the Verizon network. This new phone is identical to the AT&T iPhone with the exception of a fixed antenna. This move caused a storm of controversy, as AT&T was originally the sole carrier of the iPhone, by far the most popular smartphone on the market. It is not known how much this will affect user turnover on AT&T’s network, which has recently received criticism for its spotty service.

>>On January 1, 2011, Google announced that co-founder Larry Page

would replace Eric Schmidt as Chief Executive Officer (CEO). Under Schmidt, Google rose to become a technological and economic powerhouse, with many innovations such as Gmail, the Android mobile platform, and their famous search engine.

>>In lieu of anti-government protests in Egypt, the Egyptian government forced internet service providers to shut down in an attempt to control protester organization through online services such as Twitter and Facebook. As of Friday, January 28, only one internet service

provider was functioning in Egypt, and access to many social networking sites was prohibited.

>>A recent spate of automated teller machine (ATM) attacks has sent many banks into a panic. Fraudsters target ATMs by putting “skimmers” above card readers and installing tiny camcorders to steal customer information, bank codes and personal identification number (PIN) numbers. Authorities encourage avoiding standalone ATMs and ATMs in shady areas, as well as checking all ATMs before using them.

FORUM

ReKINDLE Your Love of Books

By **CARLOS ROJAS, II**
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

I have seen many revolutionary inventions become obsolete and replaced by better and faster ones. The all-knowing encyclopedia and the now-archaic Discman have been replaced by the semi-factual Wikipedia and the now ubiquitous iPod. There is not much pity here, however. It is easy to admit that this progress and change has made life faster and easier. However, I never thought that books would have the same fate!

Books have gone through many changes. They have gone from being etched into clay tablets to being written on papyrus scrolls to what we see today. Although the process of making, marketing and distributing books has changed dramatically over the past hundreds years, in essence, books have remained the same.

This was true until Jeff Bezos, TIME's "Person of the Year" in 1999, introduced

the first generation of the "revolutionary" Kindle, the new and improved electronic book reader ostensibly powered by magic. No longer would people have to put up with the hassle of lugging books around! No longer would we have to deal with pesky coffee stains! No longer would the fear of losing pages be endured! Jeff was the messiah of bibliophiles, and he had

comforting than coming home to shelves full of books? Shelves, may I add, which can't be accidentally deleted by the push of a button? Is there something better than the wrinkles and the tear and wear of beloved books? Surely nothing is better than that new book smell, a scent which will gradually fade into the smell of an antiquated book, patiently waiting to be picked up once more! The pleasures of picking up a dusty book, slowly wiping away at the cover and finally blowing away the remaining dust to reveal the cover are insurmountable. When did we decide that these pleasures were too outdated for our generation?

The Kindle is the new black. There is no denying this. I hope that, as with all trends, it will soon disappear, but this is wishful thinking. At this rate, books will soon become as obsolete as hand watches or hand-written sentiments. Social mainstays for hundreds of years, books will become, undoubtedly, endangered species. The relaxing experience of perusing a bookstore and searching its shelves for a special gift

is rapidly becoming a process involving the couch, your hands, your tool and the simple click of a "download" button.

It may sound like "I'm stuck in a rut, but I'm not." I understand the environmental concern of mass printing in a time when Earth's resources are fast depleted. Instead of finding a way to destroy the concept of a book, why is there no attempt to find a way to make paper out of something besides tree bark? Studies done by the Chinese, Japanese and United States governments have shown that Kenaf pulp has all of the technical characteristics needed for most grades of paper!

In addition to its quality, the Kenaf plant is an extraordinarily prolific reproducer and processing it would be less expensive than processing wood. Although hemp is illegal in the United States, it would be equally as productive and cost-efficient.

It is terrifying that everything has become so mechanized and digital. Books, I used to believe, would never be affected by mechanization of the Information Age. Premature nostalgia leads me to protest. I can all too clearly envision a world devoid of books. The Kindle is another step towards a more highly technological world. Whether this is a blessing or a curse is yet to be known.



KINDLE POSING WITH ITS VICTIMS

come at last.

Sadly, one person's gain is another person's torment. The Kindle may be more convenient for reading books the way that surfing Wikipedia may be easier than flipping through an encyclopedia, but it threatens to ruin the experience of a book itself. Is there something more

The DREAM Must Live On

By **KATIE WANG, III**
STAFF WRITER

As I was watching my local television broadcast, I saw tears streaming down young students' faces at University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) as they embraced each other, comforting themselves for the bitter disappointment they had shared together. They are not alone. Last December, when the Senate tabled the Development, Relief, and Education for Alien Minors (DREAM) Act, they unfortunately succeeded in denying the American education and potential citizenship of countless undocumented youths

This bill would have paved the road for an estimated yearly 65,000 American-raised students to obtain United States citizenship and gain access to higher education opportunities after receiving their high school diplomas. They are the young adults who were brought to America, the frontier

of opportunity, years ago as undocumented immigrant children. They have since grown up here, stayed in school and kept out of trouble. By not approving the DREAM Act, Congress has not been able to recognize what is already true – these young adults belong here.

Is it right to punish these children and teens because they had no control over their parents' decisions to move to the US illegally? Is America willing to close its doors toward these young adults who wish to explore the same possibilities this country promises to their peers?

The fates of children should not rest upon their parents. Neither should they be determined by a handful of Senate members responding "nay" to a question that could decide a person's life. America should not decide against a bill that assures a diverse youth to an American life. The DREAM Act should be passed and should grant to the

youth, the future of this country, a chance of living a life not dependent on their parents' lives.

Many of us believe the American Dream has long been obsolete. In some ways, we attempt to muffle its once alluring ideas by deeming them superficial or trivial, calling it a notion of the past. For many of the young immigrants, however, the American Dream takes a new form in their minds: education.

Education has no boundaries; it has no finite line drawn to mark the edges where learning begins or ends. Every human should have the right to knowledge and keep their minds open to the benefits of learning. Regardless of one's background and his or hers family's financial needs, education should retain the quality of wind: widespread, constantly revolving and reaching out to everyone all over the globe.

Congress needs to look past citizen-

ship documents and official papers. They need not to focus all of their energy and mind power on Greencards and Visas. They need to look at reality – the reality that thousands of young adults are waiting for Congress to let them live their own American Dream. Thousands of youths are waiting to be empowered from the benefits of higher education, to become part of the American workforce and to fulfill America's greatest potential as a country.

The tears that were shed and the sighs of frustration do not signify the hopelessness the DREAM Act gives to many. The dream still remains, as President Barack Obama declares, "My administration will not give up on the DREAM Act, or on fixing our broken immigration system." The disappointment that we felt on December 18 was no doubt bitter and upsetting. Even so, we have not finished dreaming and fighting, for victory will be achieved.

Will the North Part with the South?

By **NHU LE, III**
STAFF WRITER

Many may not be aware that from January 9 to January 15 a vote that may create the world's newest country took place in South Sudan. Though the results of the poll are not yet released, barring unlikely corruption, the expectation is that semi-autonomous South Sudan will overwhelmingly choose to separate from North Sudan. It is yet unclear how government of North Sudan in Khartoum will react to the referendum's results. Anything other than a peaceful split between the nations, however, would be a very foolish decision.

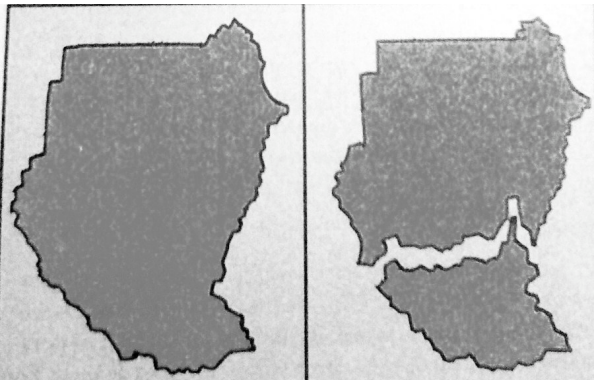
The referendum is the culmination of a peace treaty that ended decades of civil war between North and South Sudan, but the conflict still bubbles underneath the surface. If North Sudan were to refuse to let South Sudan go, another civil war would be inevitable. Every person in South Sudan remembers the brutality of the last civil war and would not hesitate to face this brutality again. This is not an

option for the North; a violent reaction would be a disastrous political and economic choice for Khartoum. The North cannot let its thirst for the oil in South Sudan cloud its judgment.

North Sudan is and has always been under incredible international

scrutiny and criticism. After all, the International Criminal Court currently has an arrest warrant for its president, Omar Al-Bashir. Organizations worldwide have denounced the country for its connections with the genocide in Darfur. They had also opposed the North-South civil war. In fact, it was international pressure that led to the peace treaty, which ended the civil war. Countries like the United States of America have already urged North Sudan to keep the referendum fair and to abide by its decisions. In the case of opposition to the referendum, international outrage will sink both Sudan's reputation and economy. Trade sanctions are already in place for many Western countries. More may be added. Action might even be taken by one of Khartoum's greatest allies, China.

China currently receives more than half of Sudan's oil output. Most of the oil reserves in Sudan, however, are in South Sudan. Of course, this means that the Khartoum government will have little to no control over the oil reserves if it allows South Sudan to separate from itself. Indeed, opposition to the referendum relies on this very rationale. A civil war, however, would stop the oil



NORTH AND SOUTH SUDAN IF REFERENDUM PASSES

flow altogether. It would jeopardize the billions of dollars the Chinese have already invested in Sudan. Because Khartoum depends on China as its only shield from international criticism and for much of its trade, it cannot allow relations with its only ally to be harmed in any way – even at the cost of a smaller share of profits from oil. Not only is North Sudan in no condition to take the burden of the expenses of a second civil war, it will not be able to withstand any new measures taken by the international community. All of the money from South Sudan's oil could not make up for the social, political and martial costs of North Sudan. It should let the South go peacefully and reap the benefits that come with abiding by a fair vote. In fact, President Barack Obama has even stated that the US might be willing to lift sanctions as an incentive for a peaceful split. So far, the Khartoum government is cooperating, and it will hopefully continue to do so after the referendum's results are declared. One fact is certain: Sudan has had enough civil wars to last a millennium. It does not need another one.

FORUM

Insanity Kills 13

By **ELIZABETH JIANG, II**
STAFF WRITER

Unless you are living in a box, or rather, a box with no radio, TV or iPhone, you have heard of the tragedy on January 8 in Tuscan, Arizona. The gunman of the appalling massacre shot 31 bullets, killing six people and injuring 13 others, including Gabrielle Giffords, a popular Democratic Arizona Congresswoman. This shooting, which has shaken the whole nation, appeared to have no clear motive.

The six victims, attending a “Meet-and-Greet” session held by Giffords, were just “normal folk caught in a moment of horror,” as TIME magazine describes. The heinous shooting evokes the seemingly unanswerable question, “Who would do such a thing, and why?”

Many reasons are up in the air for why Jared Loughner went on a rampage. Many are finger-pointing at unrestricted gun laws and Sarah Palin’s public post of the infamous map, when the fingers should actually be pointing at Loughner’s (in)sanity.

First off, the fact that people even

dare to step away from the main issue and attempt to use this tragedy as an opportunity for voicing their support of tighter gun laws is highly disrespectful to not only the families in mourning, but also to the nation as a whole. Yes, it is



PALIN'S MAP THAT "CAUSED" THE TUSCAN SHOOTING

a terrible thing that in one year, 31,224 people die from gun violence, that more than 100,000 people in America are shot in murders, assaults, suicides, accidents or by police intervention and that 2,161 children and teens are murdered. Yes, it is terrifying that in one day, 86 people die from gun violence, that it only takes 15

seconds to “pop the Glock,” that in 2009 Arizona passed a law allowing citizens to carry concealed weapons without a permit and that **[insert shocking gun statistic here]**. Yes, yes, yes. But is this even a major cause for the massacre? Is it even a necessary or helpful to incite a debate in order to bring back a national feeling of security? No and no. Why? Because debating whether or not more restrictive gun laws would have stopped Loughner from firing into an innocent crowd seems a tad ludicrous. He clearly didn’t care about abiding by law. While gun control ought to be more seriously sought after and while Loughner killed and injured 19 people with an unlicensed weapon, it is not even close to being a reason for why Loughner conceived this detestable plan.

The same goes for Sarah Palin’s map. That map of the United States pinpointed the hometowns of state representatives, who supported Obama’s Health Care Bill, with crosshairs. Palin’s map represented the frustrated feelings of her fellow antagonists of ObamaCare. Those against Sarah Palin are doing this by saying that Loughner’s killing spree was

in response to Palin’s map. They are trying to twist something relevant into something they are passionate about. Though her map had crosshairs on it, it was clearly not her intention for someone to go and kill anyone. Loughner was against the Health Care Bill and wanted to take action... by trying to kill a Congresswoman, who was in favor of it? That seems a little far-fetched to me.

Weeding out all other ridiculous “causes” for Loughner’s rampage, we come to the final and completely sensible conclusion: Loughner is a madman, who had wild fantasies of a perfect world, bouts of schizophrenic delusions and had disagreed with Giffords’ answer to his question at a recent event. With all of these factors, how can it even be possible to consider gun control laws and Palin’s map as the reason for Loughner’s murder?

What it all truly boils down to is that in the wake of a tragedy as large as the one in Arizona, we should not resort to ridiculous finger-pointing or try to analyze the intentions of mad behavior. Instead, we should come together in respecting and honoring the victims and pray for the quick recovery of the injured.

Facebook Is Not a Friend

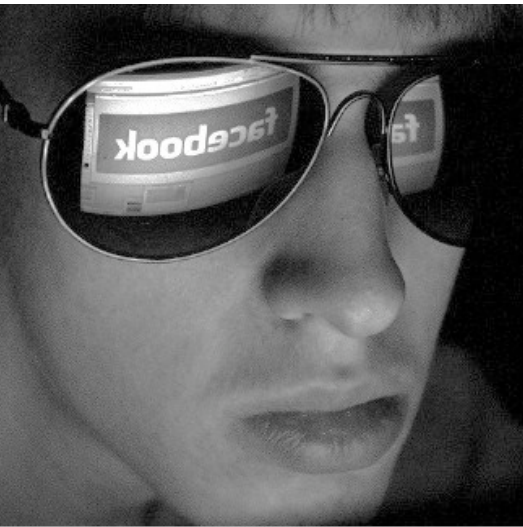
By **JAKE ZHANG, III**
STAFF WRITER

Facebook, the ubiquitous social networking site that has reinvented socializing, celebrates its seventh birthday this February. In 2004, Facebook was created in a small college dorm, and it has since encompassed nearly 400 million users around the world. It has redesigned how people regard relationships, changing forever how we communicate and keep in touch with both old friends and new acquaintances. Although this social revolution has its many benefits, we are losing something more fundamental in the process. Facebook is not bringing humanity together. Instead, it is selling our information from underneath our chronically distracted noses.

The problem with Facebook is that it limits human interaction. Although it seems that social networking is increasing the amount of interaction between people, it is actually decreasing the amount of time we’re spending with them in person. If we’re constantly in touch with our friends online, there is little incentive to meet them face

to face. If there are two friends in two different countries, why would either of them bother to travel overseas to meet each other if they are kept up to date through Facebook? In this case, it increases the quantity of interaction but significantly decreases the quality, and quality is what matters in friendships. If quantity of interaction constituted meaningful relationships, we’d consider ourselves best friends with all of our classmates.

Social networking has met a fate similar to the cell phone; it’s gone from being a device used for communication to just another form of entertainment. Facebook is a distraction to students and greatly contributes to the epidemic of procrastination that inflicts our nation’s youth. It’s no wonder that the Marine Corps has banned Facebook, MySpace and similar sites from use. It is also expected that the Department of Defense will do the same for all of its government computers. This denial of Facebook shows that we are so “hooked” on Facebook, it must actually be taken away from us completely to get



FACEBOOK DISTRACTING YET ANOTHER PERSON

us to stop using it.

Putting pictures and information about ourselves online, where anyone can see them, is obviously dangerous. Facebook claims to protect our privacy from being breached, but their protection only protects us from other users and not Facebook itself. Facebook “protecting our privacy,” only means that users can choose what information about themselves they want to make public and what information they’d

In the original Skins, Anwar had to juggle his Muslim religion and accept his gay best friend, while American Abbur seems content to throw religion out the window to moon over the lesbian Tea. Maxxie, the sweet

like to keep hidden from other users. Facebook, however, has no problem releasing a user’s information to other companies. We don’t even know how often our information is being sold! Facebook has been unwilling to release its financial data, which could indicate just how much of our information they are selling to corporations and how often. So in reality, it is not each other we should be concealing information from, it’s Facebook!

As with any recent invention, we should weigh the benefits against the risks. Facebook does indeed provide a medium through which we can communicate with each other. It also allows businesses and personalities to advertise themselves for free and to amass a fan base which they can easily connect to. Social networking sites will undoubtedly change the way we communicate in our increasingly fast-paced world, but Facebook also reduces human interaction, distracts us from our priorities and takes advantage of its users. If Facebook is lying to us about our safety, while also taking countless hours out of our lives, then maybe it isn’t as great as we think it is.

and fun-loving gay dancer in the original, is now Tea, a semi-closeted lesbian (really shaking it up, MTV?) with a gag-inducing superiority complex that seems to prevent her from not being a brat for even one scintilla. The child-like, ethereal and anorexic Cassie is reconstructed to become Cadie (clever name change!), whose lines come out rudely, as opposed to other-worldly. Cadie also struggles with “self-regulation issues” because apparently America couldn’t handle an anorexic main character. The borderline sociopath and manipulative leader, Tony, got to keep his name. Any likeable trait he had, however, was lost in translation and at the risk of sounding shallow; the actor is simply too short to take seriously and not to mention his creepy, soulless eyes.

Seriously, MTV, stop trying so hard. Edgy isn’t your thing anymore. All we really expect or want to see is eight strangers living in one house getting sloppy drunk.

SKINS NEEDS MORE THAN A DE - MATOLOGIST
Continued from Page 1

But while it can be argued that Skins didn’t go far enough, it is causing uproar for its “sex-obsessed and drug-heavy” nature. The Parents Television Council is instigating a federal investigation into potential child pornography violations, which is kind of embarrassing for America, considering that the show is significantly tamer than its raw British counterpart. The real cause for concern, however, should be on the bad quality of the show, rather than its raciness.

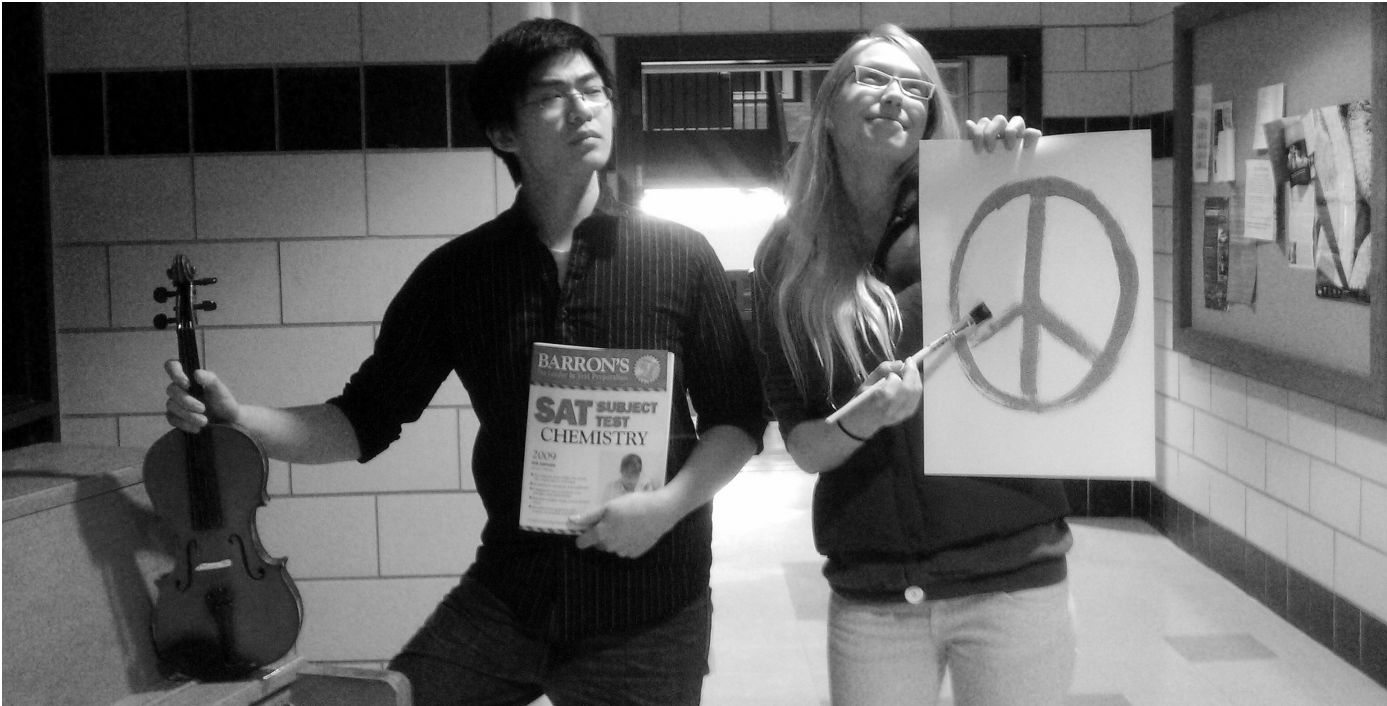
I’ve never considered myself to be much of a film critic, but even I can tell that the acting is just terrible. Their voices over-modulate like a student trying to impress an English teacher by reading Shakespeare like a sixteenth century thespian. The



TAMER BUT NOWHERE NEAR EDGIER

FORUM

Are Chinese Mothers Superior?



By MICHAEL CHEN, I
SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY EDITOR

It all started when Andy Vo sent me a link to Amy Chua’s article, “Why Chinese Mothers Are Superior,” which was published online by The Wall Street Journal. “Wow,” I thought after reading it, “a brutally honest exposé about the reality of households with strict Asian parents.” Chances are, you already know someone who comes from one of these families. Heck, for all I know, you might even come from one of these families. I do. I remember my parents whacking me on the leg with a pair of chopsticks whenever I played a wrong note during my piano practices, calling me a disgrace when I brought home an A- or limiting my TV time to half an hour a week. Life was tough, but thinking back, I regret none of it. So when Amy Chua’s book, *Battle Hymn of the Tiger Mother*, was released, I made sure that I was the first to snag a copy. Let me tell you why super-strict parents can actually be beneficial to a child’s growth, contrary to popular belief.

It is generally known and accepted that strict Asian parents raise stereotypically successful kids who become the next generation of professionals. Behind their successes and achievements, however, lie a strict regimen of hard work and discipline. This means limiting the amount of time you spend playing videogames, and it means clenching your teeth and suffering through that next set of times tables. It is not easy for the child of a tiger mother, but this upbringing teaches two valuable lessons: 1. Life ain’t easy, and the only way to get ahead of everyone else is to work harder than them; 2. Never give up, no matter how insurmountable the obstacles seem.

1. There is no reason to delude your child with visions of sugarplums. Our world becomes more globalized by the minute. The only way to compete with Singaporean kindergarten calculus whizzes is to let our children assess the competition and then give them the tools with which they can stay ahead of the curve. Sure, there are parents who will say that it is not “nice” or “fair” for their kids to be under so much pressure so early, but the world is neither nice nor fair. And even though I sometimes (read: usually) hated the way my parents disciplined me, I now realize the competitive edge I gained from my upbringing.

2. We’re prone to giving up. Let’s face it. Say you’re a kid, and you have to perform a solo recital. Given a choice, you’d probably give up before you even started. I know I would, but a tiger mother would sit down personally with the child and drill the music until it was flawless even if it meant dragging her kicking and screaming kid through hell and back. Ultimately, the satisfaction and confidence gained from achieving a feat previously thought impossible trumps a million repetitions of, “That’s okay honey, do better next time.” It instills a powerful work ethic and an attitude of perseverance that doesn’t come by encouraging your child to just “try your best.”

A popular argument is that a strict parenting scheme will not allow children to discover their “true calling” or “passion.” Critics lambaste it as overly narrow and sometimes abusive. Strict parenting, however, is none of these. Though a stringent set of rules and expectations for children may limit their choices in the short run, in the future they will have much more flexibility both in education and employment opportunities. They will have learned that no matter what their “true calling” is, they must never give up and always strive to be the best. Strict parents do not want to control their children’s lives—they merely want to encourage resolve and determination. In fact, many children from authoritarian families—myself and Amy Chua’s daughters included—do not grow up hating their parents. Instead, we grow to appreciate the gifts that they gave us and the hard work they put into raising us.

So maybe having a tiger mother isn’t such a bad thing after all. Yeah, you’ll probably hate her now because she peers over your shoulder to make sure you’re not on Facebook or blows up whenever you bring home a 91 on a math test. But believe me, one day you’ll realize that it was worth all of the horror, torture and tears.

By REED MCCONNELL, I
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

The recent publication of Amy Chua’s article in the Wall Street Journal discussing “Asian” parenting brought to light a disparity between Asian and Western cultures that most of us here at Boston Latin have probably recognized but, for some reason, have never discussed. However, it’s a fascinating topic, and one that merits discussion.

Let me start off by saying that I do not condone laziness in any shape or form and that I agree with Chua in thinking that parents should care greatly about their children and their children’s future. However, caring about your children’s future and dictating it for them are two very different things. Putting such intense pressure on your children that they feel like failures if they can’t do everything perfectly leaves no space for the children to explore the world and learn naturally from their mistakes. It creates a strict path for the child about which the child has no choice, completely ignoring the fact that the child is an individual and perhaps has no interest in playing piano or becoming a doctor.

Children who are raised in this way are taught that success as defined by society—a high-paying, affluent job—should be their goal, and that they should do whatever it takes to attain this success. This leaves the child with a skewed sense of what is important—instead of being taught to enjoy what they are doing, they are taught to look forward to what they will get from doing it, and this, naturally, leads to them deciding to take paths that they do not necessarily enjoy but that will allow them to attain this artificial “success.” The fact is, however, that aiming toward this success is not a guaranteed path to happiness or the only path to happiness. I have met countless people who work for non-profits, paint murals, and teach elementary school, and who are truly happy despite not earning a lot of money or having an affluent job. And they didn’t decide to do these things because they couldn’t succeed at anything else—they chose these jobs because they were passionate about them.

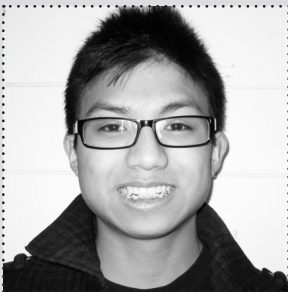
In discussing this issue with various friends, I found that the main premise of the argument for strict parenting is generally that children are naturally lazy and will only work or learn or play piano if they are forced to do so. I don’t think that this is true at all. If there’s anything that I’ve come away with from interacting with children, it’s that children are naturally curious. If their curiosity is encouraged, they are going to come to appreciate learning far more than if they are presumed to be lazy and forced to do things in order to not be yelled at or if, at the other end of the spectrum, they are thrown in front of the television and never encouraged to wonder or learn.

I was lucky enough to have my love of learning encouraged from an early age. My parents would read to me every day, take me to interactive museums, and teach me math through games and puzzles, and I always wanted to learn more about these things simply because I became fascinated with the material. Similarly, I’m not terribly good at piano, but that’s okay with me, because my goal in playing piano is not to be better than anyone or to reach perfection, but simply to enjoy playing pieces that I like. This enjoyment in and of itself causes me to keep playing piano and keep improving.

Children may not be able to look very far into the future, but they will work hard at learning if it is something that they want to do. And when they reach an age at which they actually can start to look toward the future, they will have done well enough at their own prerogative that they will be free to take any direction they might choose. Don’t get me wrong—this method of parenting is also aggressive and requires a great deal of involvement from the parents, but in a very different way from “Asian” parenting. But if one’s parents are willing to put forth the effort required to be a Tiger Mom, why shouldn’t they channel their energies in a more positive direction?

Forum
Question

Do you support Amy Chua's 'Asian' style of parenting?



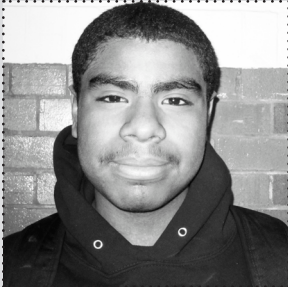
“No, a parent should raise a child with trust rather than fear and strict discipline.”
—Dan Truong, I



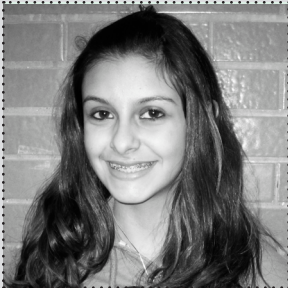
“I agree with 'Asian' parenting because you get the most out of your education.”
—Laura Sullivan, II



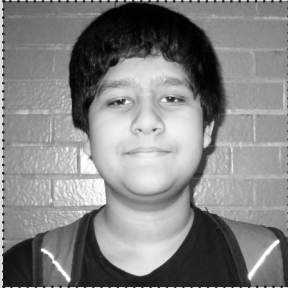
“No, I feel the student does better when they have self-discipline so they are self-motivated and want to do well.”
—Caitlynn McGaff, III



“When you put a lot of stress on a child, there's no guarantee they'll respond to it positively.”
—Elvis Antigua, IV



“My friend's parents won't let her go to a Taylor Swift concert unless she gets straight A's, which I think is ridiculous and unreasonable.”
—Paloma Zabin, V



“Academically, the Eastern way is better, but socially, the 'Western' way is preferred.”
—Saiyaz Kazi, VI

A & E

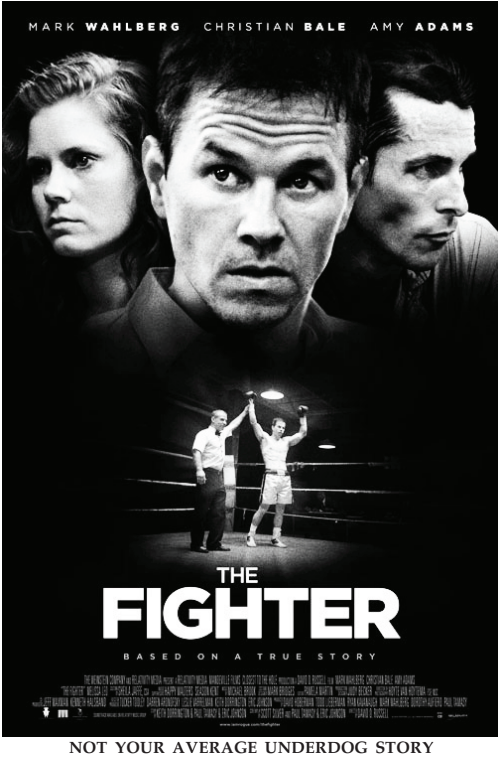
The Fighter Inspires Hope

By **CAITLIN WALSH, I**
A&E Editor

Once every blue moon, a movie debuts that inspires hope. These days, such movies are scarcely seen. Most movies are cheap remakes or pathetic sequels that milk the profits of former glories dry, but every once in a while a movie comes out that clearly is not just about the money, but about the art and the moral, which are frankly what movies are supposed to be about. It will tell a story worth telling and worth repeating with the hope that it will inspire others. The Fighter did just that.

The film is about boxing legend Micky Ward, a native of Lowell, MA who peaked in the '80s and '90s(minus a short hiatus), making everything out of nothing. He was a low class street paver from a typically large Irish family, living in a not-so-well-off town, making ends meet from day to day. His story is similar to that of any underdog hero, but there is still something to be said about any guy who can come from nothing and, with strength and perseverance, rise above to take it all. Overplayed

or not, such a story is still worth a watch. In the film, Ward makes his comeback in the early '90s (post hiatus) after his brother,



Dicky Ecklund, another former boxer and a drug addict, is jailed.

Ward is played by the Boston native, Mark Wahlberg, whose accent and feisty attitude proved his perfection for the role. Though many other big names like Christian Bale and Amy Adams appear, none of them fit their roles quite like Wahlberg, who was born to play Ward. Both were tough kids from the Boston area with less than ideal situations growing up, and both made everything out of nothing in their lives.

So what makes this film one of the greatest? It is a matter of opinion, but it seems to me that any movie that has me revved up to do something better with my life and makes me feel stronger and tougher is worth the title of being one of the greatest. Anyone can see Avatar over and over and talk about the great animation, but at the end of the day, does it inspire you? The Fighter does. Micky Ward makes any of us want to box, train, work hard and make people proud. He makes us believe in the power of perseverance.

Personally, I would rather have such a hero than Jake Sully, would you not?

High Hopes for 'Number Four'

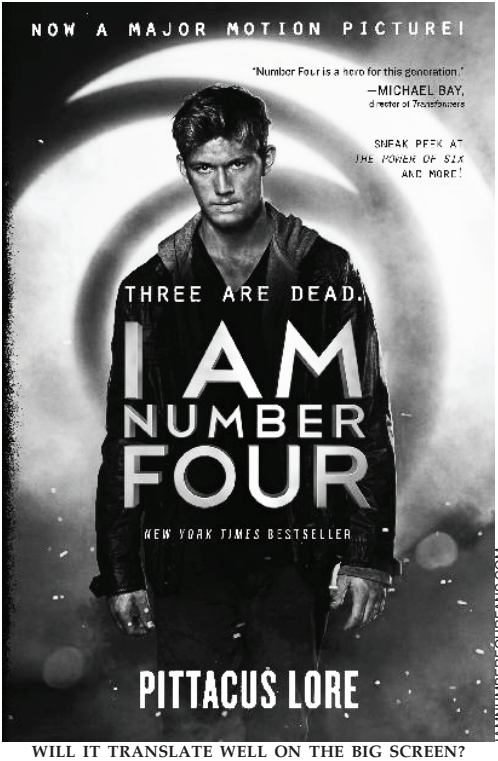
By **ANDY VO, I**
Editor-in-Chief

Making a movie based on a novel is a dangerous endeavor. There are always fans (like me), who demand that the director stay faithful to the author's vision and cry out when he omits the ever-important dialogue from page 312. Yet in the case of the upcoming film, I Am Number Four...well, I really don't.

I Am Number Four is a science-fiction novel written by Pittacus Lore (bolstering my belief that all young adult novelists must have the strangest names) about aliens from the planet Lorien, who live on Earth. Their own planet has been taken over, and only a few survivors (eight, to be exact) and their guardians land on Earth, hoping to gather strength to defeat the invading Mogadorians. Each of the survivors is bound together by a charm, ensuring that they must be killed in order to make the Loriens just a bit safer. The first three have died, and Number Four knows he's next.

Intriguing, right? Unfortunately, Lore doesn't do much with this plotline. He follows the age-old formula of teen novels: boy used to running away strives for a normal life and rebels against his wiser guardian, chaos ensues, boy matures, and day is saved!

Of course, human-looking aliens and supernatural powers are involved. You know, whatever. Even with this new twist, the writing is terrible, and it grew tiring really quickly.



This is why I have higher hopes for the upcoming film. The science-fiction plot would translate well in a movie, and the actors would (hopefully) be able to create more dimen-

sions with the characters. With a good screenplay, I Am Number Four (the film) can be great, and according to movie trailers out so far, I believe it will be. According to director DJ Caruso, with whom we had a conference call, the process was "very collaborative, but [the authors] weren't involved in the day to day making of the movie." I breathed a sigh of relief immediately.

As for the actors, they are relatively unknown Alex Pettyfer as Lorien alien 'John Smith' and Dianna Agron as Sarah, the human girl he falls in love with. From the trailers, I admire Agron's acting the most; she acts with a balance of vulnerability and strength that really works for her character. Pettyfer leaves more to be seen, but I think the subtleties with which he acts could lead somewhere in the more powerful scenes. The special effects look amazing. The director has had experience in the science-fiction field, directing Transformers and Disturbia, and producers Steven Spielberg and Michael Bay had very active roles as well. According to actress Teresa Palmer, who also plays a Lorien alien in the film, "It's action-packed. It's like the crux of the movie...and it looks great on film."

All in all, I'd say: go see it. Hopefully it will meet the expectations of Lore's young adult fans, but here's to hoping it won't. I Am Number Four comes out on February 18, 2011.

No Morals, Just Skins

By **NICK D'AGOSTINO, I**
Staff Writer

MTV has done it again. Skins, a provocative television show remake, has critics and teenagers talking. Based off of the popular British version, it follows a group of teenagers through their high school years.

Basically, the show chronicles everything about high school but the schoolwork. Just after two episodes, drinking, drugs and sex are the three biggest topics. Most of the anger about this show comes from parental activist groups, like the Parents Television Council, which complain about depicted child pornography (the American actors are, for once, the same age as the characters they

portray). MTV stands by the fact that the show is completely legal and has all of the proper verification from the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to be televised. Regardless, sponsors have already dropped the show even before the third episode on account of the controversy. The series also has recently taken a nosedive in ratings. Skins may already be fighting for its life.

One would hope that a show with as much criticism as Skins would be ground-breaking, well-acted and, most importantly, as well-written as its British counterpart. Nevertheless, the show is, unfortunately, weak. It is stale, with awkward performances and bizarre events that, from my personal experience, very few high school students encounter. To

be fair, however, it is difficult to match up against the stellar British version of the show. It is also a nice change of pace from the so-popular happy-go-lucky portrayal of high school students in current American television. Unlike other high school series like Glee, where every high school moment must have a moral, Skins objectively chronicles a group of high schoolers, without telling the viewer whether or not their actions are right or wrong; it is for the viewer to decide. So, even though most high schoolers don't steal escalades, fight drug dealers or drink vodka in the middle of the day, the American version of Skins tries its best to be an honest depiction of the lives teenagers lead. One has to give it credit for being different.

Spotlight

Caytie Campbell-Orrock



By **MEGHAN MAGEE, I**
& **STEPHANIE BROWN, I**
Contributing Writers

The other day Caytie told us she had a terrible confession to make: instead of doing her homework, she had recently been compulsively cleaning her room. Sadly, we weren't surprised because that's just the type of person Caytie is: genuine, adorable and perhaps a wee bit obsessive. Every day spent with Caytie is simply a delight. She is one of the only people who can truly be assigned the word nice with absolutely no objections. She is friendly to everyone she meets and eager to make friends wherever she goes.

If you're ever looking for Caytie, the music wing would be the best place to start. Caytie has a lovely voice, if you're lucky enough to persuade her to sing for you. She is a proud member of every singing ensemble at Boston Latin School (excluding Wolftones to her dismay) and has been for two years. She is an officer of Wolfettes, Chamber Choir and Concert Choir as well as a member of Show Choir. This year, she auditioned and got into Districts for Voice with an All-State recommendation – the only Soprano to do so. She has also been involved in the theater department for many years, and if we have anything do with it, Caytie will be participating in this year's musical.

Caytie is hard working, sometimes overly so, even when it comes to things she isn't especially fond of. Be careful if you ask her to do something for you – she will do it even if she is super stressed out about the plethora of things already on her plate. Luckily, she is addicted to coffee and accustomed to not getting much sleep. Some of our best memories have been at rehearsal, laughing hysterically at the simplest thing for no reason. You can call this being exhausted or just Caytie's love of just enjoying herself no matter what.

Caytie even has an answer to the ever elusive question: "What do you want to be when you grow up?" Caytie has dreamed of becoming an architect for many years now. She took classes at the Boston Architectural College this summer, when she wasn't busy traveling and plans to major in architecture in college. Speaking of travelling, this is another one of Caytie's passions. This past summer she journeyed both to Ireland and France (even though she is repulsed by the smell of French toast).

Over the past six years, we have had the pleasure of getting to know Caytie extremely well. Tuesdays nights will forever be ingrained in our memories as the day we get to spend five straight hours together afterschool, hopping from one rehearsal to the next. Caytie's bubbly, wonderful personality has made every hour with her a pleasant one.

Spotlight
Mathilde
Gauthier-Montpetit



By MAYA NOJECHOWICZ, I
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

From the time I innocently met her in seventh grade, Mathilde Gauthier-Montpetit has since grown from a sprightly little, glasses-bearing French Canadian into a raging Black Swan. By this, I of course mean that she is a beast on the violin (she even has perfect pitch) and is one of the most passionate and hard-working students I know. Mathilde has been playing the violin since the age of three and has not escaped its clutches yet. She has been a member of the Greater Boston Youth Symphony Orchestras, the New England Conservatory Youth String Orchestras, and Boston Latin School Concert Strings since the eighth grade. She has also been in Senior Districts and All-States. When Mathilde is not holed up in her room with her cats playing the violin for hours at a time, she can be found standing on one leg in typical ballerina fashion or lounging at J.P. Licks. Mathilde has been taking ballet classes for a number of years, but insists that she is too afraid to become a professional dancer because she might sprout big billowing wings, and she just cannot handle that.

In addition to being a stunning violinist, Mathilde is BLS props master. She created the floating typewriters for Dark Play or Stories for Boys and killed the infamous cat from Rhinoceros with her own bare hands. Mathilde demonstrates the same amount of dedication in the classroom that she does on stage. She has a fiery passion for history and is perfectly content to sit next to you on the bus and recite the history of the Pope to you, if you care to listen. Although Mathilde frequently struggles because English is her second language, she manages to excel in all her subjects, and is happy to help anyone who needs it. She is widely known for her animated reenactments of every thing covered in Modern European History and her stories of dogs that mysteriously know calculus.

Although she was born in the Great White North, Mathilde Gauthier-Montpetit is undoubtedly fierce. She can cook and bake very well and secretly wants to be a housewife. She is a caring, loyal friend, always happy to make you an inappropriate birthday card and provide countless free hugs. I have never met anyone else who can sound out any Disney song on the violin, and who takes such pride in her collection of eighties music. I can see her in twenties years: a dignified historian or lawyer by day, violinist by night and always a stylish cat lady at heart. I aim to still be friends with you then Mathilde, mainly for the delicious cookies, but also because I love you.

A & E
Could We Get Much Higher?

By ANDRES SIMPSON, I
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

We all have heard or seen what happened between Kanye West and Taylor Swift at the 2009 MTV Music Awards. If you have been out of the loop for the past two years when it comes to music, allow me to enlighten you. While Taylor Swift was making her acceptance speech for winning Best Female Video for, “You Belong with Me” at the 2009 MTV Music Awards, Kanye West ran onto the stage, snatched the microphone from “Tay” Swift and proceeded to say how Beyonce had, “one of the best videos of all time,” referring to her music video for “Single Ladies.” After finishing what he had to say, Kanye shrugged his shoulders and walked off stage. Following the controversy of this outburst, it became a fad to hate Kanye West. Various celebrities began to condemn Kanye West for his actions and school girls across the nation began burning his albums and t-shirts in a feeble attempt to purify themselves of the evil sin Kanye West had committed. In the past, Kanye has received much criticism for his outrageous and uncalled for behavior. This, however, was the last straw. It seemed to be the end of days for Kanye West. Alas! Kanye continued to work on his latest album, My Beautiful Dark Twisted Fantasy, to prove to the world that this incident would not tarnish his success. Much was expected from Kanye following the lackluster response to his previous album, 808s & Heartbreak. The album was finally released on November 22, 2010 and received acclaim from music critics. Metacritic, a website notorious for its harsh reviews, rated My

Beautiful Dark Twisted Fantasy a 94/100. Rolling Stone awarded the newest album five stars, a rating very few albums ever receive. Jon Caramanica, a writer for the New York Times, called West, “A better rapper than he’s ever been.” West’s album debuted at number one on the US Billboard 200 Chart, with around 496,000 copies sold in the first week. On January 11, 2011, My Beautiful Dark Twisted Fantasy went platinum. West’s newest album was a hit and for a good reason: the album is good. My Beautiful Dark Twisted Fantasy



KANYE'S 'FRUIT PUNCH' HIP-HOP REDEEMS SOUR REPUTATION

opens with the song “Dark Fantasy” which begins with a comical, yet eerily disturbing narrative by Nicki Minaj. What sets this album apart from West’s other albums is the accompaniment of various guest artists that don’t necessarily steal the show, but illuminate and strengthen the lyrics of Kanye West. One of the tracks, “All of the Lights,” features around 11 guest artists that sing the chorus while R&B artist Rihanna sings the hook.

Among those 11 guest artists are Alicia Keys, John Legend, Fergie, Kid

Cudi, Ryan Leslie and even Elton John. This layering of various vocal legends creates a unique texture to Kanye’s lyrical extravagance. Kanye West’s culmination of different musical styles creates a “fruit punch” style of hip-hop; a mix of classic hip-hop, a bit of soul and a splash of eerie electronics with a twist of orchestral instrumentation creates a flavor of music that shows Kanye’s mastery over creating music.

In the past Kanye West’s lyrical themes seemed to be the weakest part of his musical repertoire. However, My Beautiful Dark Twisted Fantasy refutes this allegation; the album in its entirety has a purpose of telling the story of someone who is “Lost in the World.” The word “Fantasy” can be interpreted in different ways: as an unreasonable, impractical dream or, in a literary sense, a type of fictional story involving imaginary worlds and supernatural events. The way the tracks are intricately and artistically titled hints towards the latter; the titles of the songs portray the story of, perhaps, Kanye West himself, who is completely “Lost in the World” trying to “Runaway” from this “Hell of a Life,” being surrounded by the fame (“All of the Lights”) while being seen as a “Monster,” a “Devil In A New Dress.”

Despite the various bounties and “Wanted” posters put up for Kanye West after the mishap after the 2009 MTV Music Awards, Kanye came out swinging, ready to show the world that he still has the power to dominate the music industry. One of Kanye West’s goals is to win a Grammy Award for Album of the Year, which he has yet to acquire. After the release of My Beautiful Dark Twisted Fantasy, however, this fantasy of his is starting to look a lot more like reality.

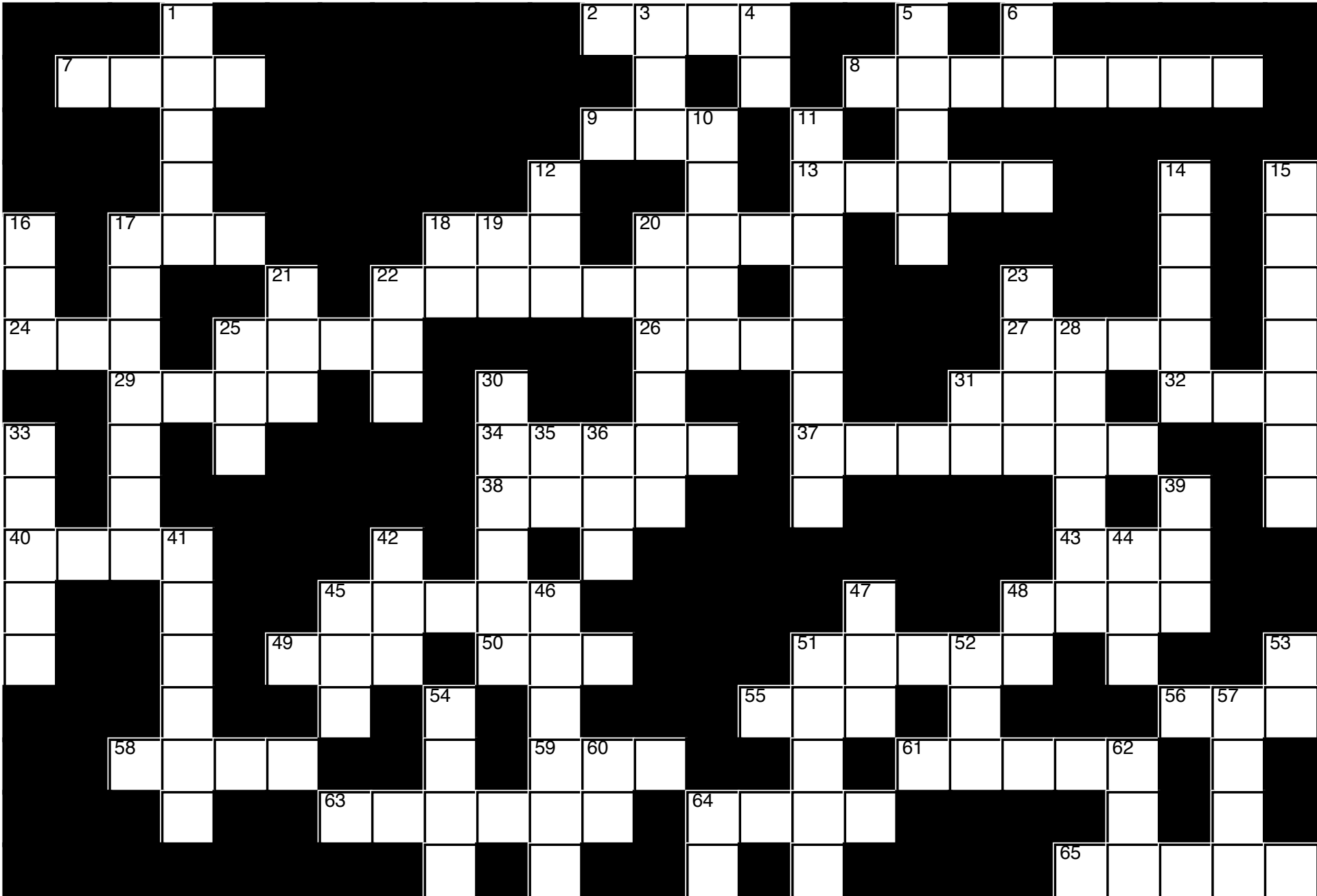
Horoscopes

Horoscope readers: As you’ve been looking through your horoscopes, you may have noticed that something is a little different than usual. What you thought was your horoscope may not really be your horoscope after all. You see, it was recently announced that the astronomers from the Minnesota Planetarium Society found that because of the moon’s gravitational pull of the earth, the alignment of the stars was pushed forward by about a month, changing everyone’s horoscopes. So below are your new (and hopefully improved) horoscopes, including an appearance by an entirely new sign: Ophiucus.

Capricorn, Jan. 20-Feb. 16: With term three weighing heavily on your shoulders, Capricorn, you may find yourself in a pessimistic mood. But cheer up! Straight As and a month full of happiness are headed your way.
Aquarius, Feb. 16- March 11: With the Haiti anniversary circling everyone’s mind, this is a perfect opportunity for you to put your humanitarian traits to work! Do something nice for someone else, an maybe karma will return the favor.
Pisces, March 11-April 18: Valentine’s Day is right around the corner, Pisces,

and that means that it’s time to put your romantic tendencies into action. Don’t let your shy ways keep you from approaching that special someone.
Aries, April 18- May 13: Aries, your adventurous ways will be put to the test this month, don’t let your impulsive characteristics lead you into foolhardy decisions.
Taurus, May 13- June 21: Because of your hard work and determination, Taurus, you will find yourself finally getting something in return. Keep it up, and surprising rewards will be in store for you.
Gemini, June 21- July 20: You may find yourself facing some challenges this month, Gemini, but don’t let yourself become discouraged. You will soon find that your impressive intellect can get you through almost anything.
Cancer, July 20-Aug. 10: Consider giving that angry friend a second chance, Cancer, you may find that they’re worth the while. Don’t let your overemotional nature win you more enemies than friends.
Leo, Aug. 10-Sept. 16: The desire to blow off work and spend time with your friends may be more appealing than ever, Leo, but don’t give in just yet. You will soon find that your hard work will have

been well worth it.
Virgo, Sept. 16-Oct. 30: Although you may find yourself feeling shy this month, Virgo, don’t let yourself be a doormat. Stand up for yourself and ask for the treatment you deserve!
Libra, Oct. 30-Nov. 23: This month will provide a plethora of opportunity for you, Aries. Opportunities that you haven’t noticed before will suddenly become evident; be sure not to miss them the second time around!
Scorpio, Nov. 23-29: You may find yourself feeling overwhelmed this month, Scorpio. Take a well-deserved day off and relax!
Ophiucus, Nov. 29- Dec. 17: Given your suddenly new existence, Ophiucus, you may find yourself struggling to determine just who you really are. But not to worry, as an interpreter of dreams and a seeker of peace, answers are definitely headed your way. Just keep attracting that good luck, and you will find your life taking a turn for the better.
Sagittarius, Dec. 17-Jan. 20: This month is the perfect time to spend time with your family, Sagittarius. You may find that a movie night with Mom and Dad is a lot more fun than you may think.



Across

2. ‘You Found Me’ artist
7. Jackie, of action movies
8. Tea Party Caucus founder
9. The most ubiquitous store in Down-
town Boston (abbr.)
13. It takes two to do this
17. Broom counterpart
18. Inventor of the detective-mystery
novel; ‘The Raven’ poet
20. Togo capital
22. Black Swan’s ‘Swan Queen’
24. US president, for most of WWII
(abbr.)
25. A type of ‘warm’ slightly above room
temperature
26. A blue-green color
27. Noun: a person, place, thing, or this
29. Pokemon #95, resembles a steel
snake
31. Progressive insurance spokeswom-
an
32. A Hawaiian necklace of flowers
34. Newly elected Florida senator

37. ‘Only Girl in the World’ artist
38. Samoan capital
40. Breakfast food restaurant chain
43. ‘Great Society’ president (abbr.)
45. Holds all-time home run record in
MLB
48. The 15th of March, to Caesar
49. A type of bread, like wheat or whole-
grain
50. Oprah Winfrey’s new cable TV chan-
nel
51. 13, to a baker
55. To droop; film and television labor
union (abbr.)
56. Sports group of 24 American, and 6
Canadian, teams (abbr.)
58. Superman alias
59. Ohio shoe store (abbr.)
61. Like Colgate or Aquafresh
63. ‘Cooler than Me’ artist
64. Milton Bradley board game; Quaker
Oats cereal
65. Tom Cruise’s type of business

Down

1. Tropical orange fruit
3. You do this to engines
4. BLS Chemistry teacher
5. Returning and beloved BLS police officer
6. Holds all-time home run record in the
world
10. British unit of mass (14 lbs); Easy A actress
11. This crossword maker’s Super Bowl pick
12. New Year, to the Vietnamese
14. You do this to bases and vases
15. 1st woman appointed to US Cabinet,
under FDR
16. NYC rapper and actor: Mos ____
17. Casablanca locale
18. The red Teletubby
19. Follows ‘and’ or ‘either’
20. A Baltic state
21. Latin leader
22. Children’s fairy tale: The Princess and
the ____
23. Pottery oven
25. Zip your ____
28. Disney Duck

30. Godfather actor
31. A whole step below sol (solfege)
33. Argo A&E Editor
35. 2009 Pixar film, about an airborne
home and balloons
36. Baby neck accessory
39. Night attire (abbr.)
41. Hogwarts poltergeist
42. A deer, a female deer
44. Super Bowl half-time performers (abbr.)
45. A sports ‘free pass’ in a tournament
46. A Nordic country
47. Water suspension in the morning air
48. This preposition appears in this sentence
51. Looney Tunes Duck
52. What you do, on the side of caution
53. A miniscule SI unit, for water (abbr.)
54. Almost in Spanish
57. ‘King of the Hill’ protagonist
60. Junior’s father (abbr.)
62. Three prefix
64. 2011 Australian Open Women’s Singles
runner-up

Sudokus

Easy

							4		2
			3	6		9	1	5	
9	1	8	4		2	3	6	7	
5			9	6	4				
6	8		2			5			
4	7	9	5	8	1	2	3		
3		7		4	6				
	6	4				7			
8				2			1	4	

Diabolical

2						7		5
9							4	
	1	5		9				
	7		8			5		1
		4		3				
				6			7	2
1					8	6		
	9		1			3		
			9	4				

SPORTS

Celtics Stay on Top

SOPHIA SIRAGE, I
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

“And the Los Angeles Lakers are your 2010 NBA Champions!” Considering how painful the conclusion to the 2010 National Basketball Association (NBA) Finals between the Boston Celtics and the hated Los Angeles Lakers was, Glenn “Doc” Rivers and the crew were focused on improving for the upcoming season. At the start of the 2010-2011 season, the Boston Celtics were accompanied by new additions to the roster, most notably Jermaine O’Neal, Delonte West, and Shaquille “The Shaq Attack” O’Neal. However, Delonte West has only played five games due to injury, Jermaine O’Neal has seemed wholly ineffective, and Kendrick Perkins just played his first game this past Tuesday. Nevertheless, as we approach the midpoint of the season, the Celtics have managed to stay first in the Eastern Conference and look to remain there until the end.

Besides the obvious benefits of having Rajon Rondo and his 13.2 assists per game in addition to Kevin Garnett's intensity on the floor, the key to the Celtics' success has arguably been Shaq. You would not expect that a seven-foot, 38-year-old would be as refreshing for the rest of the roster as he is, making big-time dunks and big-time hustles. Nonetheless, he has solved the issue of starting and finishing games with energy. With two years in his NBA career remaining, it seems fitting that “Superman” himself dives on the floor for loose balls, rips away rebounds from opponents and blocks shots as he soars high into the sky.

For the rest of the team, performances range from both ends of the spectrum. What head coach Doc Rivers has been able to do with as many injuries as the Celtics have had is been nothing short of spectacular. Criticized for being an old group, the “Big Three” has surprisingly improved statistically. Paul Pierce's positive presence has been noted in all

games thus far; whether he was running the offense while Rondo was injured or rebounding in the absence of KG., Ray Allen, who is now only 21 three-pointers away from taking Reggie Miller's all time record, has reached an all time high in his field goal percentage and three-point percentage. Lastly, KG has been averaging 15 points and nine rebounds per game and even knocking down key jumpers at games’ crucial points.

Arguably the only disappointment has been the Celtics bench. With Nate Robinson putting up numbers that seem only to decline and Marquis Daniels' inconsistency, Glen Davis has been the only member of the bench that's been worthy of a “Sixth Man of the Year” candidacy. If the bench can manage to bounce back into becoming healthy and perform at expected levels, there is no doubt that the Celtics will find themselves as a very powerful Eastern Conference contender for the 2011 Finals and maybe even get to hang up their eighteenth Banner.

Bruins Clicking on All Cylinders

BY COLIN MURPHY, II
ASSISTANT SPORTS EDITOR

Boston Bruins’ head coach Claude Julien posted three goals on the team board hanging next to the locker room door at the TD Garden before the start of the season. First of all, be a leading defensive team amongst the rest of the NHL. Secondly, do not give up any games due to lack of focus. Third, win the Northeast Division. With the All-Star break finally here, the Bruins have a check next to all three of their pre-season goals. The Bruins lead the league in the least amount of goals allowed per game through the first 50 games of the season with 28-15-7 record, only allowing 2.14 goals against per contest.

The Bruins have had some ups and downs this season, sometimes going on streaks where they pick up a single point, a win or OT loss, in several games. Besides a dismal conclusion to a game against Mon-

treau on January 8, in which the Bruins lost 3-2 in OT after having a two goal lead with 2:30 left in the third period, the Bruins have done a great job in closing out games, posting a 20-0-1 record when leading in the third period. Due to the rejuvenated play of goalie Tim Thomas, the Bruins are amongst the league's best heading into the final stretch of the regular season and into the playoffs. After winning the Venzina Trophy in 2009, Thomas struggled, losing his starting spot to rookie Tuuka Rask. With Thomas back to his true form, he again looks to be a heavy favorite for a second Venzina Trophy. Led by captain Zdeno Chara and assistant captain Patrice Bergeron, the Bruins are looking good to close the season out with a Stanley Cup appearance. Crafty center David Krejci leads the team in assists with 26 goals and Lucic leads the team with 20 goals. Also, the improved play of energetic players Gregory Campbell and Brad Marchand really have this team clicking on all cyl-

inders.

Additionally, the Bruins boast a mix of rookies like Tyler Seguin, who was picked second overall in the 2010 NHL Draft, defenseman Stephen Kampfer and experienced leaders like wingers Michael Ryder and Mark Recchi. This mix of both young talent and experience provided a perfect ingredient for the Bruins to make a run for Lord Stanley’s cup. However, the Bruins face a tough stretch to close out the season as they face Montreal three more times and other Northeast Division teams with a total of six other games against division opponents. A strong finish to secure the top spot amongst the Northeast Division is huge for the Bruins because this will give them home ice advantage for at least one playoff series in April. If the team can keep the three goals that Julien posted during the pre-season in their minds for the rest of the season, then we will be hearing noise from them all throughout the playoffs.

Whole Lot of Soul

BY LUKE MCKINNON, I
ASSISTANT SPORTS EDITOR

Boston Latin School has a killer Boys' Swim Team. They are dedicated, smart and brotherly. The swim team has not won every single meet, but they have their reasons. It is certainly not for lack of trying, work ethic or style. They have a lot of that stuff. They simply do not have divers to accumulate the valuable points or prescription goggles to help with their sub-par vision. But they have heart, and most importantly, they have each other.

Swimming is an individual sport. In swimming, you have to do your best and hope that the rest of the team follows your example. Fortunately, they really do learn from each others' example and act as a unit. They embody our school’s mascot: the wolf. They work together as a pack. The captains, or maybe more appropriately, the she-wolves, are Mick Chertov (I), Nick Cameron (I), Mike Tomasini (I) and the honorable George Lok (II). The captains could not do it alone. They are thankful for the support of the team managers, Delia Ridge Creamer (II) and Ciara Murphy (II), but they do wish they had better ones. And who could forget the beautiful, benevolent man named Coach Conley, who leads them in their practices and is an all around cool guy?

Those are just the facts. How much have you really learned about the team? You know some names. You get the gist. What if, however, I told you that as of this moment, you knew nothing about the Boys’ Swim Team? You didn't know that they practice at a school in Dorchester next to Stop & Shop. You do not know that each day, they go to Stop & Shop and show up late for practice as a team. You do not know what dramatic hair style change they will make for states this year. You do not know about the robes they wear. You do not know if they are wearing anything underneath the robes. I even do not know myself. To tell you the truth, they still are not sure themselves.

You have never been to swim practice. You probably think that swim practice is easy. It turns out that swim practice makes your whole body sore and leaves you hungry for days. Actually, swimming is a serious physical challenge and the only one that requires you to hold your breath for the majority of the time you are doing it. Swimmers have to balance themselves in water so they do not sink, they have to balance their breathing so they do not hurt themselves and they have to balance



BEST OF LUCK, ISAAC BUCK

themselves again when they get out of the pool, so they do not slip and cause themselves season-ending injuries. That is a lot of balancing. To attain all this balance, the Boys’ Swim Team has reached a state of mental consciousness which I do not think anyone else in the school has. These boys are in tune with their chi.

Swim team is more than captains, physical prowess, daily exercise rituals or bus rides. Swim team is excellence. It has a lot of soul. You can join the team next year if you are a good swimmer. Just make sure not to usher in too much change because, for better or worse, they like it how it is now. After having spent only a part of my Monday with them, I have to ask, who wouldn’t?

Spotlight Megan Duckworth



BY MARIE KELLY, I
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

On February 13, 1993, our world was suddenly graced with the presence of pure genius, talent and beauty. Whether you’ve seen her on the court, field, classroom or even the hallway, chances are that Megan Duckworth has turned your head. Megan was born and raised in Roslindale, where she began her athletic career. The older sister of twins, Clare and Katie, Megan is a natural leader and role model. Megan has always been as strong, tall and aggressive as she is now. I had the unfortunate job of unsuccessfully playing defense against her in West Roxbury Community Center (WRCC) youth basketball. Her skill on the softball diamond was also evident at a young age when she led Parkway’s Ravens to multiple championships.

There was no surprise when Boston Latin School begged this brainiac to attend our prestigious high school and to share her wealth of knowledge. If you thought it was impossible to get more than twenty A+’s in one term - think again. Megan’s report card is consistently flawless. She is forever challenging herself and has read every book published since 1856. She has been in an unhealthy relationship with author Dennis Lehane for quite some time, and he has high hopes for their future. She has mastered every subject she has ever taken and is always willing to help others succeed. Her insight expands far beyond the classroom to magical places such as Daisy Field. Megan made the softball team in the eighth grade and worked hard to earn her spot as starting second baseman and a vital part of the batting order.

Second baseman by spring and guard by winter, Megan has also devoted a large portion of her time towards her love for basketball. After a long Friday night of defeating all Dual County League teams with her fellow Wolfpack ballers, Megan wakes up early on Saturday mornings to work at the WRCC, volunteering as a referee and coach to third and fourth graders, and yet her day is still not over. Who is that gorgeous hostess and waitress-in-training at Sophia’s Grato, one might ask? You guessed it. Megan works at a local restaurant a few nights a week. How does she balance it all? The world may never know.

Some say she is a descendant of Zeus himself. Others guess that she has secret powers, thereby enabling her to start and stop time as she pleases. I have come to accept that Megan is unexplainable. There is no way to possibly comprehend how so much greatness could ever exist in one individual. Megan is far beyond words and so much more than any “spotlight” can convey. Above all, Megan is a dedicated, kind, fun-loving and compassionate friend who would do absolutely anything for those she loves. I consider myself very lucky to call her a best friend and am fully ready to kick any Ivy-League butts that get in her way next year.

SPORTS

Boys' Ball Doin' Work

By **KEVIN McCANN, II**
& **TOSIN AJEWOLE, I**
STAFF WRITER & CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Last season’s misery and abysmal record is in the past for the Boys’ Varsity Basketball Team, as they focus on the present and try to bounce back to their old winning ways and earn another appearance in the state tournament. Led by leading scorer Jack “Jimmer” Duggan (II), the team currently has a 7-6 record coming into the last half of the season, needing four more wins to make it back into the tournament. With a strong supporting cast led by captains Matt “The Southie Pirate” Kehoe (I) and Khaleel Abdul-Jabbar (I), as well as scorers like Savaughn Dinkins (II), the team is rejuvenated from last year's 2-20 season, and is playing with a new confidence and energy. The team, known for its lock-down defense led by captain Tosin Ajewole (I), has lived up to its reputation on the defensive end

this season and with a couple of tough losses. They still, however, have a good shot at triumphantly returning to the state tournament. On the offensive end, the Wolfpack looks to push the ball with their quick and athletic big men like Mike Wodjewodzic (II), get quick baskets leading to their full-court pressure, harass opposing guards with their speed and length and cause turnovers for more quick scores. The team has a notably good work ethic and has clearly forgot about the past as they begin to get back to their winning ways, recently beating Weston at home by 15 points. “We’re starting to play well again. We know our potential and how far this team can go, and we’re looking to show everyone that,” says forward Leo Stella (I). “Last season was a season to forget, and I’m glad that no one here is looking at the past,” says big man Devin Kirby (I), another senior on the varsity squad. Led by Coach Brendan Smith, the Wolfpack have loads of confidence heading into a

huge stretch of away games to conclude their regular season. The team hopes to use their huge improvement from last season to push themselves into the state tournament. “Last season added fuel to the fire for this year. A lot of teams around the Dual County League have forgotten about how good this program has been before last season. But we’re going into other teams' gyms and getting wins,” says sharpshooter Colin Murphy (II). “We have some good players in our program that have been playing together for a while. As we start to get confidence we know we’ll only get better and we can make noise throughout the state,” says Duggan. With the last stretch of the season approaching, the squad will need all the support from fans at their upcoming games against Westford (February 1), Newton South (February 11) and Lincoln Sudbury (February 15). Come out for a game and you will not be disappointed with the up-tempo and exciting pace the team plays with.

Spotlight

Brendan Casey



By **MIKE SCANNELL, I**
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Everyone knows it. I don't have to tell you that there is a predator among us. A massive, carnivorous, bone crushing mammoth who is said to have the attributes of the kodiak and seems to have inherited its speed and cunning from the cheetah. The only thing that may separate Brendan “Big Case” Casey from the likes of a kodiak-cheetah hybrid would be his wild fascination with the Queensbridge rappers and his sense of style.

I met “Big Case” during the summer going into the eighth grade. I can vividly remember seeing him on the walk to the Roberto Clemente Field . I can’t describe the way his pants fit him without being graphic, but I remember having to shield my eyes from the glare coming off his crispy, all-white Shaq sneakers. His running back shoulder pads symbolized broken dreams because we all knew he would never get a shot at the backfield. Covering his torso was a blue Under Armour shirt that was far too big for him (Casey recently brought this infamous shirt out of retirement because he thought people would forget he wore it in the eighth grade, but he was wrong). We were wrong about something though: for the next five football seasons, Casey would be in the backfield of every Dual County League (DCL) team, pillaging and plundering like Genghis Khan in football gear, and he would similarly be known for his ruthless and violent nature. Having played next to him on defense for four out of our five years together, I have heard some bloodcurdling screams uttered by quarterbacks, who were bold enough to take a shotgun snap. I once winced in a dog pile as I heard a loud chomp that was followed by a running back frantically telling his teammates to get up because “the fat one had just bitten into his calf muscle.” Real talk. His nasty style of play has made him a DCL All Star and even more impressively, a Lineman of the Year, an award which is bestowed upon only two DCL linemen per season. Many say that he only won the awards because everyone was so impressed by his post-sack dance routines. I would have to agree. Everyone is also impressed with Casey’s incredible strength; his 385-pound and 450-pound squats are literally unheard of for high school athletes, particularly for one who seems to get yellow fever nearly every winter without fail. We all know that in order to regain his strength after the fever he must simply touch an unsuspecting teammate and steal his energy.

If you ever see “Big Case,” a.k.a. “LOY,” a.k.a. “Grimace,” swagging up the hallway, know that if you’ve never spoken to him, you missed out on an opportunity to know a great guy. I know that he’s like a brother to me, and I’ll always have a best friend in Brendan Casey.

They Run This Finding a Way

By **BRIAN MAHONEY, I**
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Boston Latin School’s Indoor Track squad is finally coming into its prime after years of waiting for the stars to emerge. Already 10 runners have qualified for States with more on the way. The team has strong leadership, dedicated runners, young talent, but most importantly, a unified team. In past years the distance and sprinting teams did not mesh the way a team should. But this year the team has come to work together towards goals, and everyone has reaped the benefits.

The Boys’ Distance Team, headed by Nick D’Agostino (I), Miles Grover (I) and Brian Mahoney (I), has made great strides in improving this year. The captains, accompanied by the dedicated and always present Kyle Flattery (I), are attempting to qualify for states in the 4x800 meter relay, as well as in each of their individual events. Mike Ward (III), having already qualified for states, has a huge upside over the next few years. And next year is sure to be another great year with Tyler Cohen (II) at the helm along with Tim Heard-Devlin (V) and Tom Casey (III) already running impressive sub 5:50 miles. The Girls’ Distance Team, under the leadership of Kathleen Mello (I) and Elza Lambergs (I), is also working its hardest this year. With both their relay and individual times improving, the girls are finishing at the top in all of their races. Kathleen and Elza have already qualified for States and are both planning to break the school record in the 1000m.

The Boys’ Sprinting Team, led by captains Jake Goldklang (I) and Andre Simpson (I), has given a strong showing this season. Ryan Connelly (I) is quite literally a second away from states in the 600 meter race. The 4x200m team of Goldklang, Simpson, Connelly, and David Hines (II) has already qualified for States after running the event only once. It is also certain that Kevin Chen (III) will be making a name for himself over the next few years. With a powerful relay team and great individual times, some of these guys have actually taken to wondering which events they would prefer to run in states. The Girls’ Sprinting Team is also very impressive this year. Headed by Emma Rice (I) who is a veteran at Nationals, this team is one to keep an eye on. Maggie Hughes (II) and Will Moen (II) are both promising runners for the future who have already qualified for States in the 55m dash and 300m respectively.

You may be reading this and notice that the State Meet is mentioned several times, and that it may even seem repetitive. But qualifying for States is a perfect demonstration of the improvement of this team. Five years ago, only four members of the entire team qualified for states, this year 10 have already qualified with three meets to go. We’re not talking about the future anymore, we’re talking about the now.

TRUE GRIT

Continued from page 01

They have a solid foundation starting with the goaltender duo of Liz “Lamoosh” Lomuscio (IV) and Michaela Clarke (IV). Micheala is best known for her butterfly style and has no problem doing a split to rob an opposing sniper. Brittany Miller (I) protects her goalies and has been seen decking hackers to the ground. She is one of those rare combinations who can play both defense and offense, even though she specializes on of-

With winter sports reaching the middle of the season, Girls' Varsity Basketball is gearing up to finish the latter half of the season on a strong note. Having racked up wins against teams including Bedford High School and Waltham High School, the girls are ready to see a few of the close games they have lost against skilled teams go the other way the second time around. While the team’s record thus far may not be as successful as originally hoped for, the girls maintain that the number of wins and losses are not indicative of their strength as a team. “We’re a group of players that play competitively despite the score and despite the record. We play as if the score were tied. We never give up,” said the captain, Emily Berardi (I), when asked to comment on the dynamics of the team.

Berardi, a familiar face on the court, contributes generously to both the team’s offense as well as defense. Point guard and fellow captain, Jonlyn Englert (I), proves to be an essential component to the offense, leading the team in points. As captains of the team, Berardi (I) and Englert (I), are credited with keeping the team motivated and leading the team to hard earned victories. On top of a strong force of upper classmen, the team also boasts promising young players including Maggie Mulligan (IV) and Mary Demoura (III).

Starters Allison Florentino (I), Meghan Duckworth (I) and Laura Sullivan (II) also pitch in by putting points on the board and keeping up the team’s level of intensity. Duckworth, known by her teammates for her hustle and speed, has been recently seen sporting a black eye around school, the result of a foul during an intense game against Weston. Luckily, Duckworth is undaunted by the injury and looks forward to more competitive games saying, “We know there’s a lot of tough competition out there, but we play as a team and we play hard until the final buzzer.”

Unfortunately the team is not a stranger to injury. Suffering the loss of an injured Jackie McDonagh (I) at the beginning of the season, the girls felt the loss of such a strong player. To the relief of her team, McDonagh has recently regained her strength and has returned, ready to contribute in any way she can. With half the season left to play, the girls are ready to reflect their hard work on the scoreboard. Come see this team in action on the team’s Senior Night, Tuesday February 8, as the girls face off against Waltham High School.

fense.

Miracles on ice have happened before and they can happen again. The players are confident that they can at least end the season strongly and grind out a couple more wins. Next year's players are inspired to get really big in the weight room over the off-season, so they can turn things around next year. I have received inside information from the coach, Ms. Foley, who says, “A world’s famous strength and conditioning coach is being called in to speak to the girls.” Never count the Wolfpack out.

Southeastern Conference Remains Dominant

By JONATHAN CLIFFORD, I
STAFF WRITER

After a season full of upsets, scandals, major coaching changes and one remarkable Heisman Trophy winner, the college football season has concluded. The Bowl Championship Series (BCS) National Championship game has been played at the University of Phoenix Stadium, home to the National Football League’s (NFL) Arizona Cardinals and Super Bowl XLII (a day all Patriots fans would like to forget). As I predicted in my last article, Auburn and Oregon remained ranked in the top two spots and played for the national championship.

Auburn was the favorite going into the game. What was there not to like about the Auburn Tigers? They had the 2010 Heisman Trophy winner Cam Newton as quarterback. Newton had what many considered one of the greatest seasons a player has ever had (except Tim Tebow). The Tigers defense, led by defensive tackle Nick Fairley, proved able to overcome a difficult schedule in the toughest conference in college football. Yet, there was still hype that they would



AUBURN GETS IT DONE

not be able to stop the high-powered Oregon Ducks offense, led by tailback, LaMichael James, and quarterback, Darren Thomas. The game did not feature much offense, as both teams played great defense throughout the game. As time expired, a field goal gave the Tigers their first BCS National Championship and continued Southeastern Conference dominance in college football.

Every year, many people think the only bowl game that matters is the National Championship. The rest of

the bowl games are considered exhibitions where the top draft prospects attempt to impress NFL scouts. This is simply untrue. The undefeated TCU Horned Frogs were underdogs in their first Rose Bowl Game. Playing in “the granddaddy of them all,” no one believed TCU could have beat the Wisconsin Badgers, but they did. They showed why no matter what conference a team plays in, a playoff should be used to determine the national champion.

As we move towards the 2011 season, two of the most storied programs in college football will have new coaches. In a not so surprising move, the University of Michigan fired head coach Rich Rodriguez, who was an underachiever in his three years leading the “Big Blue,” and replaced him with former Michigan assistant, Brady Hoke. Everyone expected

this move, but no one expected University of Florida Gators' coach, Urban Meyer, to resign for the second time in two seasons—this time for good. The Gators acted quickly and hired Will Muschamp as their new head coach. In his six years at the Swamp, Meyer revived the Gators program, leading them to three SEC Championships and two BCS National Championships. Expect Meyer to provide great analysis on College Gameday in September.

The NFL Draft is three months away and the deadline has passed for juniors to forgo their senior seasons. Top draft analysts expected Stanford University quarterback, Andrew Luck, to enter the draft and be the top pick. Luck decided, however, to please the Stanford fans and stay in school for another year. Now top NFL draft analyst, Mel Kiper Jr., has Auburn defensive tackle, Nick Fairley, as the top player on his big board to be drafted by the Carolina Panthers. The landscape of the draft is destined to change with trades and impressive performances at the scouting combine and senior bowl, but if you are looking for a good draft prediction, take Mel Kiper Jr.’s pick every time over Todd McShay’s.

A Fierce Fighting Force

By LUCY BURKE, II
& GABRIELA MEDEIROS, II
STAFF WRITER & CONTRIBUTING WRITER

The Boston Latin School (BLS) Wrestling and the Josiah Quincy Upper School (JQUS) Wrestling are the only two wrestling teams in the entire Boston Public Schools (BPS) system. After a disappointing end last season, the returning members of the team made sure to work their hardest during the off-season, going to the gym on their own, and participating in wrestling camps over the summer to start the new season with a big bang. The returning members, however, did not need to count solely on their own efforts. The turnout of new and young wrestlers has put the team at its biggest in numbers in a while. Many of these new wrestlers show tremendous promise for filling the huge shoes that will be left by the upperclassmen, who now make up the majority of the varsity team.

The newly elected captains Joey McCourt (II), Baudy Mazaev (II), David Ho (II) and David Vydshedsy (I) have hustled the team to put up a hard fight against the toughest dogs in the league. The team, making due with mats that are rumored to be older than BLS itself,

has still managed to carve out a place in the league as worthy competitors. With wins against the strongest competitors in the league such as Newton South and Acton Boxboro, the team has shown that their hard work with six-days-a-week practices in the depths of the basement have paid off. Coach Gibbons has single-handedly turned the team from underdogs into a fierce fighting force. Rumor has it that their bus-rides to far away meets are not spent on school buses but on cavalry ready to battle till the last drop of blood. This is no exaggeration; the team has had far more than its fair share of injuries including a torn anterior cruciate ligament (ACL), multiple concussions and a sprinkling of other maladies. These were insignificant to a team that is determined to show no weakness, and to prove that even with their lack of resources, they are still able to shine. Don’t let the dingy and discolored mats fool you.

This past month, on January 20, the team held a meet against JQUS in honor of Hoong Wei Speicher, mother of former captain Ben Speicher ’07, and manager Tonia Speicher ’10, founder of the JQUS wrestling team, who passed away in 2010 of cancer. This meet was one of



CAP’N “CRUNCH”

the only two at BLS, but the turnout for both meets from friends and family was spectacular, and their support helped the wrestlers bring their “A” game. Captain Joey McCourt (II) said “When I walked out and saw everyone in the stands, it really pumped me up. It gave me the extra push that I needed to get diesel.”

The team has in mind a number of unique fundraisers in hopes of creating funds for new practice and competition

mats. With these, the team hopes to show that it is not only a star in its sport, but also to represent the illustrious school of which it is a part.

With the closing of the season soon approaching, after weeks upon weeks of sweat, tears and dedication in its tiny corner of the lower gym, the team prepares for its final battles before states, where it plans on showing once and for all its true grit.

Superbowl XLV

Where did they go against the Jets?

Tom Brady’s receivers looked like the bunch of rejects and misfits they actually are, struggling to get an inch of breathing space between themselves and the ferocious Jets secondary. Brady’s line crumbled under pressure, leading to more sacks and throwaways than Brady has had all season. Brady himself seemingly left his throwing arm at home with Giselle, throwing a super-uncharacteristic end-zone interception for a 58-yard return, after throwing several passes to the knees of Steve Gronkowski and Danny Woodhead. The defensive line got nothing accomplished, allowing Jets quarterback Mark Sanchez enough time in the pocket to cook himself dinner and still sling the ball to the more aggressive Jets receivers. Why we lost is not difficult to understand;

bad offense leads to more possession for the other team, and mediocre defense still lets up points. Bad + mediocre = loss. How we lost, however, is the real question and still eludes most Pats fans to this day. Maybe, at the end of the day, the Jets just wanted it more.

But the past is the past. Now, a super exciting Green Bay Packers team, with a healthy Aaron Rodgers at the helm and a rejuvenated offense (I was unaware Green Bay even had a running back, but rookie James Starks has come into his own in the postseason), looks to face off against the Pittsburgh Steelers, led by explosive running back Rashard Mendenhall and Ben “Big Ben” Rothlisburger. Two top-notch defenses, led by Packer’s nose tackle B.J. Raji (a hometown hero from BC) and Steelers safety Troy Polamalu, square off against two of the best quarterbacks in the

league. The Packers have had the 4th best offense this postseason, but the Steelers have had the best defense, holding teams to an average of 207 yards per game. The Packers average 370.

This will be a Superbowl to watch. After a rollercoaster NFL season that saw everything from the Seahawks making the playoffs to Randy Moss virtually retiring, this promises a fantastic game between two hard-nosed defenses pitted against two of the better and more exciting offenses in the league. Plus, the Black Eyed Peas are performing at half-time. Will Fergie follow in Janet Jackson’s infamous footsteps? Tune in at 6:25 P.M. on February 6 to find out. The game will be broadcast on Fox.

Oh, and by the way, go Packers. Aaron Rodgers runnin’ and gunnin’.

By DEVIN KIRBY, I
SPORTS EDITOR

Do you remember the Patriots? It was the 2010 New England Patriots who went 14-2 in the regular season, finishing with the best overall record in the National Football League, and the team that turned an unconventional offense full of no-name receivers and a defense plagued by inexperience and inconsistency into the best team this season. Led on defense by monster nose tackle Vince Wilfork, and on the sideline by head coach/resident mad scientist Bill Belichick, the Patriots managed to finish with a .875 win percentage despite not being in the top five for total yards per game, rushing yards per game, passing yards per game and their defensive equivalent. Why? Tom Brady, the best quarterback this season, by far.